

REFUGEE NIGHTMARE DEEPENS

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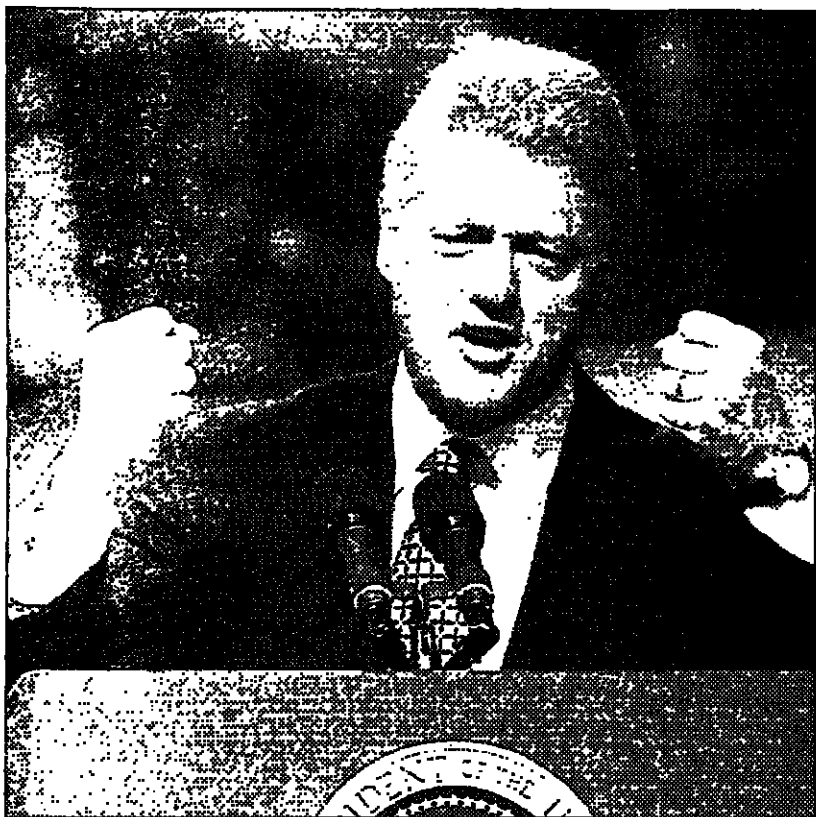
The World's Daily Newspaper

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Fear of Wider Instability in Balkans on the Rise



President Clinton speaking Thursday at Norfolk Naval Air Station. He warned Yugoslavia against mistreating captive U.S. soldiers. Page 5.

Bombing Second-Guessed

By Craig R. Whitney
and Eric Schmitt
New York Times Service

BRUSSELS — The top civilian and military leaders of NATO settled on a strategy of bombing alone against President Slobodan Milosevic of Yugoslavia despite several military assessments and intelligence warnings, and even a clue from a Yugoslav general, that bombs without ground forces could not stop Serbian forces from launching a purge in Kosovo.

Finger-pointing over missed signals and suggestions of mismanagement began to surface in Brussels and in Washington as the second week of the bombing campaign began with no sign that Mr. Milosevic was bucking and no idea how it would end.

Pentagon planners, for example, said they had warned the administration publicly and privately that Mr. Milosevic was likely to strike out viciously against the Kosovo ethnic Albanians as soon as a possibility of military actions was raised and that he would use the period of negotiations in France in February and March to prepare.

"In the Pentagon, in this building, we were not surprised by what Milosevic has done," the Defense Department

spokesman, Kenneth Bacon, said Wednesday. "I think there is historical amnesia here if anyone says they are surprised by this campaign."

But throughout the months of planning for a crisis over Kosovo, a ranking officer in Brussels said Wednesday, the allies chose bombing because none of

More news about the war in Yugoslavia. Pages 4, 5, 6 and 20.

them was willing to take the risk of sending in the 100,000 to 200,000 troops they thought it would take to keep the Serbs from having their way with the 1.8 million ethnic Albanians in the province.

President Bill Clinton reiterated his aversion to using ground troops Wednesday in an interview on CBS's "60 Minutes II" program. "The thing that bothers me about introducing ground troops into a hostile situation, into Kosovo and into the Balkans, is the prospect of never being able to get them out," Mr. Clinton said.

That determination left the North Atlantic Treaty Organization with only the option of air forces. "We said from the

NATO's Mood Is Somber

By Joseph Fitchett
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — The North Atlantic Treaty Organization vowed Thursday to grind ahead with its air assault against Serbian forces, but there was growing tension and concern in the region and inside the alliance, too, that the massive human toll and refugee exodus from Kosovo could spread instability to Balkan states.

Allied air strikes were taking their toll on Serbia's military strength, said the NATO supreme military commander, General Wesley Clark, without offering any detailed new evidence to back up these assertions.

Even as Washington repeated that the use of Western ground forces was not being contemplated, General Clark conceded that "air power alone cannot stop paramilitary murder" of the type that Western officials accuse the Serbs of pursuing in Kosovo under orders from President Slobodan Milosevic.

General Clark's grim determination in responding to reporters' questions at NATO headquarters in Brussels set a somber tone, apparently shared in Western capitals, about the difficulties the alliance has encountered in breaking Serbian resistance, forcing concessions

from Belgrade and containing the Kosovo crisis.

That mood was not eased by the appearance on Serbian television of three U.S. Army scouts seized late Wednesday near the border between Macedonia and Yugoslavia. Serbian media reported that the three Americans were going to be put on trial, perhaps this weekend, and the United States immediately denounced the prospect as a violation of international law.

President Bill Clinton, reiterating threats from other Western leaders about possible war crimes prosecutions against Serbian leaders and commanders, warned Mr. Milosevic against any mistreatment of the airmen, saying that he "should make no mistake, we will hold him and his government responsible for their safety and their well-being." (Page 5)

Alliance officials said that they were still trying to clarify the circumstances of the soldiers' capture, adding that the Serbian leadership seemed to consider the soldiers as potential hostages during the military escalation against Belgrade.

Belgrade television also reported a surprise meeting between Mr. Milosevic and a Kosovo Albanian political

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See NATO, Page 4

How a Routine Patrol Turned Bad

3 U.S. Soldiers May Have Been Seized by Ethnic Serb Villagers

By Carlotta Gall
New York Times Service

KUMANOVO, Macedonia — It was around 4 P.M. when the three-man American reconnaissance unit radioed in to base to say they had come under fire. The message went back: "This is not a joke."

"No, this is not a joke," they replied.

"They did not have time to say where they were," said Lieutenant Colonel Kersabiec, commanding at the main NATO base in Kumanovo, in northern Macedonia. "So we took it seriously," he said. He ordered out search parties and sent up a helicopter with night vision to scour the border region all night.

They found nothing, and the next they

knew the American soldiers had turned up, on Yugoslav television Thursday morning. Looking bruised and exhausted, they were captives of the Belgrade authorities.

The three soldiers — identified as Staff Sergeant Andrew Ramirez, 24, of Los Angeles; Staff Sergeant Christopher Stone, 25, of Michigan; and Specialist Steven Gonzales, 24, of Huntsville, Texas, all of the 1st Squadron of the 4th U.S. Cavalry — were among only 350 American soldiers in Macedonia. Until recently part of the United Nations mission in Macedonia, they served in Task Force Able Sentry.

Now they are being renamed Task Force Saber, and have in the last two weeks been used for reconnaissance work along the border with Yugoslavia, watching for incursions or any activity

that might be aimed at the NATO forces based not far from the border.

The men were out on a routine patrol close to the Yugoslav border, NATO officers and the men's own unit said here. Their patrol area was close to the border, some 10 miles northeast of Kumanovo, in an area that is predominantly populated by ethnic Serbs.

There is little doubt among fellow soldiers on the ground that they were seized by armed Serb villagers, who were cooperating with Yugoslav forces across the border.

"There is a strong Serb minority that feels very close to Serbia," said Colonel Kersabiec. "Of course the Yugoslav Army obtained information from locals," said another officer.

"We think the locals took them," said a European officer leading a reconnaissance unit in the area. He said he suspected the Serbs would have been watching the soldiers and, when they spotted three men on their own, moved in to seize them.

"Every man in this area has a Kalashnikov in his house," he said. "We are in hostile territory here. We know that the threat is not from the north, but it is all around us."

The officer was leading a reconnaissance unit of four armored vehicles, topped with heavy machine guns. His men were all armed with automatic rifles, and wore heavy-duty bulletproof vests, although only some bothered with helmets.

NATO soldiers in the area all said they had encountered hostility from villagers in the region who hurled stones and even bricks at their armored vehicles. One French unit was drawn up beside a bridge where "NATO Go Home" was daubed in red paint.

Yet the capture of the U.S. servicemen still took everyone by surprise. How it actually happened still remained unclear Thursday.

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Captured U.S. soldiers being shown Thursday on Yugoslav state television, which said they would face a military court Friday. The three had been sent to Macedonia in February as part of a UN border-securing mission.



An overcrowded train en route to Macedonia picking up more Kosovars who were forced to flee on Thursday.

Refugees: Like a Scene From 'Inferno'

By John Kifner
New York Times Service

KUKES, Albania — In a chilling display of force, Serbian gunmen are systematically emptying Pristina, Kosovo's capital city, marching its ethnic Albanians out through lines of masked, heavily armed Serbs, according to refugees crossing the border on Thursday.

More than 10,000 more Albanian Kosovars, stretching at times more than a dozen miles back into Serbia in a heart-rending line of packed farm tractors and wagons, trail old people being carried in wheelbarrows and weeping village women on foot clutching their children and, perhaps, a blanket or a plastic bag with a few clothes. An old man died of exhaustion on the border crossing Thursday morning.

The people of Pristina, once an urban center with a university, coffee houses, cinemas and newspapers, told — once again in almost identical accounts — of the latest Serbian tactic of "ethnic cleansing."

Throughout the Albanian neighborhoods — most of the

city — there was a knock on the door of every home Wednesday afternoon. Sometimes it was only one gunman — special police or paramilitary — with a black ski mask over his face, but usually several gunmen.

Leave now, the refugees said they were told, and quickly and roughly thrown out of their houses. They were robbed of their money in the process.

When they reached the street, they said, they found their neighbors in a forced march between lines of masked, uniformed Serbs draped in weaponry.

At one point the Serbs videotaped the march. Indeed, Serbian state television broadcast just such a forced march in Pristina two days ago.

The refugees said they were split into two groups, one taken to the city's railroad station, the other to a soccer stadium. It was difficult to estimate from the accounts exactly how many people were involved, but they clearly numbered tens of thousands.

See PRISTINA, Page 4

With Economic News Grim, Corporate Japan Restructures

TOKYO — The painful restructuring of Japan's stagnant economy picked up steam Thursday as four more companies announced they would trim their work forces in hopes that leaner payrolls eventually would reinvigorate earnings.

The moves came just two days after the government announced that unemployment in February hit a record 4.6 percent and a day after Mitsubishi Elec-

tric Corp. said it was cutting 14,500 workers.

The economic mood also continued to deteriorate, as fresh data suggested that an end to the recession was nowhere in sight. The Japan Automobile Dealers Association said Thursday that sales of new cars fell 10.1 percent in March from a year earlier, damping hopes that consumer demand would soon spark a recovery. The decline followed reports Monday that industrial output and retail sales slumped in February.

Among companies announcing that they would reduce their work forces: Hitachi Ltd., the giant electronics company, said it would cut 10 percent of its work force, or 6,500 workers, by next March and sell off unprofitable businesses as part of a restructuring program. Hitachi's president, Etsuhiko Shoyama, told a news conference on his first day in the post that the company would trim staff through attrition and cutbacks in graduate recruiting.

"I would like the company to evolve into a highly profitable company," Mr. Shoyama said. "Our first aim is to move

The Dollar			
New York	Thursday @ 3:00 P.M.	previous close	
Euro	1.0792	1.0762	
Pound	1.6033	1.6112	
Yen	120.47	118.85	
DM	1.8123	1.8144	
FF	6.0782	6.085	
Dollars per pound and per euro			
The Dow			
	Thursday @ 3:00 P.M.	percent change	
+28.86	9,815.02	+0.29%	
S&P 500			
+3.35	1,290.22	+0.30%	
Nasdaq			
+17.76	2,479.16	+0.72%	

into the black in the current fiscal year."

Hitachi last month forecast a group net loss of 375 billion yen (\$3.1 billion) for the financial year that ended in March. Mr. Shoyama admitted that the losses were due partly to Hitachi's miscalculation of its semiconductor investment.

"We had continued investing a lot of money, not considering a collapse in

See JAPAN, Page 14

Warming to 'Cold Pizza'

Japan's Leader Repairs His Image Problem

By Nicholas D. Kristof
New York Times Service

TOKYO — When Keizo Obuchi was seeking the prime minister's job last summer, he was dismissed as having "all the pizzazz of a cold pizza."

The months since then have offered evidence that pizza can be successfully warmed up. Nobody would describe Mr. Obuchi as charismatic, but he is widely regarded as more effective — and ultimately more popular — than most people had expected.

"I have to change my view on him, in that he has grown in the job and been fairly effective," said John Neuffer, an American who publishes a political newsletter in Tokyo. It was Mr. Neuffer who coined the description of Mr. Obuchi last summer, causing the expression "cold pizza" to be the rage of Tokyo and a new way of describing anyone seen as dull and unappealing.

"He has certainly exceeded all expectations," Mr. Neuffer continued, expressing a view that is widely shared, "but he started at such a low level of

expectations that this wasn't hard to do."

One gauge of Mr. Obuchi's success is that he is no longer setting records for unpopularity in opinion polls as his standing has soared from execrable to merely dismal. Polls indicate that he now has the support of 33 percent of the public, up from 17 percent last autumn.

Mr. Obuchi has shown that he is a shrewd mechanic of the Japanese political machine. It is running more smoothly than it has in years, and this spring he pushed the national budget through Parliament earlier than ever before in the post-World War II period.

Mr. Obuchi has forged alliances with the small Liberal Party and with various factions, and his political skills have helped him push a variety of economic measures into law. These range from a \$200 billion stimulus plan to a bank recapitalization plan to a program to distribute shopping coupons to people across the country in a desperate effort

See OBUCHI, Page 7

AGENDA

Drug Scandal Hits Bike Racing Again

The drug scandal in professional bicycle racing erupted on two fronts Thursday as the head of the French Cycling Federation was placed under formal investigation and a race in Belgium was stopped so that the police could question officials and riders of Mapei, the world's top-ranked team.

The Mapei riders and management were cleared of doping allegations, a Belgian public prosecutor said. But an Italian masseur with the Italian-Belgian team remained in custody concerning the discovery of amphetamines which had been mailed from the riders' hotel to Italy. Page 20.

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Plunder in Cambodia / A Wave of Looted Treasures

An Ancient Temple Falls Victim to Huge-Scale Thefts

By Seth Mydans
New York Times Service

BANTEAY CHHMAR, Cambodia — One of the boldest and most destructive temple robberies ever carried out in Cambodia might have gone undiscovered for months or even years if Claude Jacques had not wandered into an antique shop in Thailand last December.

Mr. Jacques, a French expert on Cambodian antiquities, found himself face to face with a familiar stone inscription from the 12th-century temple of Banteay Chhmar.

Few other people had ever seen the stone or, in recent years, the temple itself — a remote and unrestored jumble of sagging archways, moss-covered walls, cracked bas reliefs and weather-worn but still gently smiling stone gods.

"I know that inscription perfectly well, because I worked on it," said Mr. Jacques, who visited the temple in 1965 and 1991. "I could not stay calm." The 1.2-meter-high (four-foot-high) stone, with its inscribed account of ancient battles, was on sale for \$8,000. Mr. Jacques called the Thai police, who impounded it.

But his discoveries were only beginning. The stone inscription turned out to be just a tiny part of the loot from an extended raid on the temple last November and December that officials say was organized by Cambodian military officers using power tools and heavy equipment.

Mr. Jacques and other experts are calling it one of the largest-scale thefts of Cambodian antiquities since the first and most famous of the robbers, the French writer Andre Malraux, carted nearly a ton of stones from Angkor Wat in 1924.

Experts fear that it was part of a new wave of looting at Cambodia's hundreds of remote and unprotected temples.

As the Khmer Rouge communist insurgency has collapsed in the last two years, many hidden sites have suddenly become open to looters. Much of Cambodia's countryside remains lawless, and hundreds of temples lie unguarded, unstudied and overgrown with vegetation. The only witnesses to the raid on Banteay Chhmar were the villagers who live around the edges of the temple.

"It's not basic, usual looting," said Sebastien Cavalier, a Cambodia-based representative of Unesco. "It's huge-scale looting."

Andre Malraux took maybe 20 statues," he added. "Here it's 500. It's like a case study for looting, every kind of looting, big and small."

"You can see 12-meter-long walls totally dismantled," he said. "With stones cut into two pieces. You can see looting of heads, looting of pediments, looting of bas reliefs, illicit excavations."

In dismantled walls alone, Mr. Cavalier said, more than 45 square meters (500 square feet) of bas relief was chopped into pieces and trucked away.

"You could say it is unfortunately one of the worst damages in the history of the looting of



A soldier sitting in the ruins of the looted temple at Banteay Chhmar. Officials say that the robbery, carried out last year, was organized by military officers.

Cambodian temples," said Mr. Jacques, who is the special adviser on the Angkor temple complex for Unesco, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

Mr. Jacques and Mr. Cavalier came to Banteay Chhmar in January to inspect the looting; they already suspected that the damage might be extensive. Just before their trip, the Thai police intercepted trucks near the Cambodian border carrying 117 heavy stone pieces of a dismantled temple wall that the two men later confirmed had come from Banteay Chhmar.

The temple is just 25 kilometers (15 miles) from the Thai border in a barren corner of northwestern Cambodia that is almost inaccessible by road. To reach it, the researchers traveled by military helicopter, an hour's flight from Siem Reap — the home of the temple complex of Angkor and the heart of Cambodian civilization — which dates from the same period as Banteay Chhmar.

When he saw the damage, Mr. Jacques said, "I was crying."

UONG VON, the director of heritage protection at the Ministry of Culture, said pneumatic drills had been used to chop statues from their bases and dismantle tons of stone bas relief.

The drills left regular tooth marks along the edges of walls. Freshly sliced stone slabs lie here and there, their sharp edges contrasting with the worn and mossy blocks around them. Statues stand headless and faceless where looters smashed them.

"You cannot compare it with the looting at Angkor," Mr. Cavalier said. "It's on a totally

different scale. At Angkor the head disappears. At Banteay Chhmar the whole wall disappears. It's as if you have Notre Dame de Paris and somebody comes and starts to cut off all the pediments."

As many as 1,200 temples are scattered around the country, Mr. Cavalier said, but there is no complete inventory to help officials monitor what needs to be protected and what may have been stolen.

Cambodia's treasures have been looted almost constantly since Malraux's time — by French and Vietnamese armies, by refugees fleeing the Khmer Rouge and by Khmer Rouge guerrillas themselves.

When the Khmer Rouge were driven from their final stronghold at Angkor Veng last year, officials say, a trove of stolen artifacts was found. Young Chantha, an official at the Cultural Heritage Department, said 20 to 30 tons of antiquities had been found at the home of Ta Mok, a Khmer Rouge leader who is awaiting trial in Phnom Penh.

Though some progress has been made in recent years in returning artifacts to Cambodia and other nations, experts say the trade in antiquities continues to flourish. As efforts grow to choke off the trade in Cambodian art through Thailand, for example, the experts say a new route has appeared through Singapore.

As with much of the looting in Cambodia, official corruption appears to have been involved at Banteay Chhmar. Cambodian officials say they have identified the military unit and the officer responsible for the pillage, though it is not clear whether the looters will be punished. "If I can find this officer in Division 7, I will not protect him," said his superior, General Ko Chhean. "It is up to the law. Maybe he should be put on trial."

Netanyahu Courting Israeli Arabs' Votes

He Promises Equality to 12% of Electorate

By Joel Greenberg
New York Times Service

SHEFARAM, Israel — The roar of the crowd outside shouting, "Bibi go home!" was barely audible inside the tightly guarded City Hall, where Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was whisked to speak to a handpicked audience from this Israeli Arab town.

Accompanied by his wife, Sarah, who wore a dove-shaped brooch, Mr. Netanyahu brushed off the demonstration, organized by members of a leftist Arab party, and promised his listeners another peace treaty by the millennium and swift action to bring equality to the 1 million Arab citizens among Israel's roughly 6 million people.

My government and I are committed to equal opportunity and to closing the gaps," Mr. Netanyahu said, listing statistics that show increased aid to neglected Arab communities. "A human being is a human being, and a citizen is a citizen. For me, the children here are no different than Jewish children and they deserve exactly the same future. The real record shows what we've done."

Battling for every vote they can obtain in a tight race, Mr. Netanyahu and his opponents took their campaigns this week to Arab villages and towns, visiting during the four-day Muslim Feast of the Sacrifice. Arabs make up 12 percent of the electorate, and their votes could be crucial in determining the outcome of the balloting May 17.

In the election in 1996 that brought Mr. Netanyahu to power, Arabs voted overwhelmingly for Shimon Peres of the Labor Party, preferring his dovish views to the harder line of Mr. Netanyahu, who received 5 percent of the Arab vote.

Many Arabs are quite likely to vote again for the Labor candidate, this time Ehud Barak, although significant numbers could support Yitzhak Mordechai, leader of the new Center Party and the third main contender. Others might back an Arab candidate, Azmi Bishara.

On the Arab campaign trail, Mr. Netanyahu, Mr. Barak and Mr. Mordechai all make the same double-barreled promise of peace and equality. They pledge to make peace with Israel's neighbors and to solve the problems of the Arabs in Israel, who lag significantly behind Jews in living standards, employment rates and quality of government services.

Mr. Barak portrays himself as the successor of the assassinated Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, following his policies of peacemaking and improving the Arabs' lot.

"How can we take our Arab neigh-

bors in the eye while we have such deep inequality in this country?" Mr. Barak asked on a visit to Baqa al-Gharbiya. "There can't be one town with red-brick plazas and another that has no sewage in the same country. That's not equality. We are going to bring peace and equality."

Mr. Mordechai promises to appoint an Arab minister to the cabinet and to draw up five-year plans to upgrade roads and sewage systems in Arab communities. The Iraqi-born son of Kurdish Jewish immigrants, Mr. Mordechai peppers his holiday greetings with Arabic phrases, showing off his Middle Eastern roots.

"I hope that next year we can be in Damascus and wish the Syrians a happy holiday," Mr. Mordechai said on a visit to Abu Ghosh, where he pledged to work for peace with Syria, Lebanon and the Palestinians. He drew loud applause when he declared, "I promise you that when I am elected prime minister there will be an Arab minister in my government."

Compared with his opponents, the hawkish Mr. Netanyahu has a tough job of selling himself to Arab voters. The protesters who greeted him here held up signs saying, "Netanyahu is persona non grata in Shefaram" and "announcing him as 'an enemy of peace.'"

His emissary to the Arab communities, Gideon Ezra, a former deputy chief of the Shin Bet security agency, was mobbed by an angry crowd and had to be hustled away by police officers.

At the City Hall meeting, Mayor Ussan Yassin, a political ally of Mr. Netanyahu, read a checklist of troubles that plague this town of 30,000.

"Shefaram is a city in name only, but it's actually a big village," Mr. Yassin said. "There are no pools, no youth clubs, no public parks, and only 50 percent of the sewage system is complete. In the Bedouin neighborhood there are no roads, no infrastructure, no play fields. It breaks my heart to see our young people with no place to spend their time. There are no budgets, no resources."

Mr. Netanyahu responded with his own list of government-financed public works in Arab villages and towns, noting that the sums had grown despite budget cuts. He promised \$7 million to Shefaram by next year.

The promise of additional aid is Mr. Netanyahu's most potent weapon in his campaign to woo Arab voters. In similar fashion, the Sephardic religious party, Shas, whose control of the Interior Ministry gives it power over local budgets and building plans, is appealing for support from Arabs in the vote for Parliament.

TRAVEL UPDATE

U.S. Issues Warning On Travel in Mexico

WASHINGTON (AP) — The State Department is advising U.S. citizens to defer unnecessary travel in the Mexican state of Guerrero, which includes coastal destinations such as Acapulco, because of threatened political demonstrations there.

In an advisory issued Wednesday, the department relayed reports from the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City that the

political opposition in Guerrero has vowed to block the inauguration of the state's governor-elect. Members of the leftist Democratic Revolution Party have accused the governing party of widespread irregularities and of vote-buying.

'Air Rage' Check Starts

LONDON (Reuters) — Britain on Thursday started registering all cases of "air rage" in a bid to control a sharp rise in the number of unruly airline passengers.

The Civil Aviation Authority said it would use the register to assess the exact level of the problem and identify possible trends and solutions. Airlines in Britain have reported a 400 percent increase in air rage incidents over the last year.

Uganda Park Reopens

KAMPALA, Uganda (Reuters) — Bwindi National Park, famous for its rare mountain gorillas, reopened Thursday, a month after eight foreign tourists and a local guide were clubbed and hacked to death. The minister for dis-

aster preparedness, Jane Francis Kuka, said that the park was secure and "under constant surveillance."

Tour operators said that they were encouraged by the measures, but that more needed to be done to reassure tourists after the vicious attack last month by Hutu rebels.

The expansion of Schoenefeld airport in Berlin won German government approval. The 7 billion Deutsche mark (\$3.9 billion) expansion will allow Berlin to shut the Tegel and Tempelhof airports and consolidate air traffic into a single hub. The project is to be completed in 2007.

Atlantic Coast Airlines and United Airlines are set to announce plans to offer joint hourly jet service from Dulles International Airport in Washington to La Guardia Airport in New York. (WP)

Mexico City's grand central plaza, the Zocalo, is to be transformed into a center of blooming trees under a renovation design selected by city officials. The renovation, to be completed by the end of the year, will reroute the traffic that now rings the square. (AP)

Gore and Bush Lead the Funding Race

By Susan B. Glasser
and Cecil Connolly
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — Vice President Al Gore has collected nearly \$7 million for his presidential campaign so far this year, trailed closely by Governor George Bush of Texas at more than \$6 million, as the two announced fund-raising tallies that mark them as the early leaders in the money chase that will be the first test of the 2000 election.

In a campaign where both Mr. Gore and Mr. Bush have vowed to shatter previous fund-raising records, the two camps claimed wide leads over their Democratic and Republican rivals in their first quarter reports — the first barometer of financial prowess in this early-starting election season.

"It's an important benchmark because of the financial demands of this process," said Anthony Corrado, a campaign finance expert at Colby College. "They need to show brisk fund-raising early on and that's what the front-runners are doing."

Mr. Gore, mining his Tennessee connections and President Bill Clinton's donor network, aims to have \$55 million

in the bank in early 2000. He is relying on a team of "solicitors" each of whom has pledged to raise \$50,000.

Mr. Bush, an accomplished fund-raiser whose Texas base is traditionally a large source of political contributions and who draws on a national family network, took in the \$6 million without holding any events. On Wednesday, he called that "a great start." His campaign has mapped out an ambitious plan to collect as much as \$32 million by the end of 1999.

Former Senator Bill Bradley, Democrat of New Jersey, who says he has raised close to \$4 million, has demonstrated that Mr. Gore does not have a total lock on the Democratic financial network.

On the Republican side, the chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee, John McCain, of Arizona, appears to be second to Mr. Bush, although that is due in large part to a \$2 million transfer from his Senate campaign account, along with about \$1 million more raised this year.

Two candidates expected to be proficient fund-raisers offered surprisingly low totals: Elizabeth Dole, who has raised about \$500,000; and former Governor Lamar Alexander of Tennessee, whose \$700,000 to \$800,000 pales in comparison to the \$5.2 million he raised

in the first quarter of 1999. None of the figures are final; checks were still streaming into the campaigns Wednesday, the last day of the first quarter. The reports, with details on contributors and spending, will not be filed at the Federal Election Commission until April 15.

With 11 Republican candidates in fierce competition for cash, rivals were quick to suggest that Mr. Bush's early success was not the final gauge of financial viability. "The second quarter is more meaningful," said Steve Schmidt, an Alexander aide.

Several Republican hopefuls who raised about \$1.5 million said they did not need to keep pace with the early leaders; they just needed to have enough money to get their message out.

"What our \$1.3 million illustrates is that we are competitive," said the chairman of the House Budget Committee, John Kasich, of Ohio.

Former Vice President Dan Quayle has raised about \$2 million but only has \$500,000 cash on hand, said his campaign manager Kyle McSlarrow. "Our philosophy has been to put together an organization as quickly as possible," he said. "You'll see others stockpile funds, but I'm doing a lot of investing early."

JAL Attendants Seek Hearing

TOKYO — A group of 25 female flight attendants sought Japanese government arbitration over alleged discrimination in promotions on Thursday, the same day a new law against sexual discrimination took effect.

The group, from Japan Airlines Co., applied for arbitration with the Labor Ministry under the revised Equal Employment Opportunity Law, an official in the ministry's Women's Bureau said.

Under the new law, the ministry will start hearing cases brought by workers without consent from their employers. Previously, the consent of both sides was needed before arbitration could be requested.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, refused to provide further details, citing the privacy of those involved.

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WEATHER
Forecast for Saturday through Monday, as provided by AccuWeather.
Europe: High/Low, Wind, Clouds, Precipitation...
North America: High/Low, Wind, Clouds, Precipitation...
Asia: High/Low, Wind, Clouds, Precipitation...
Africa: High/Low, Wind, Clouds, Precipitation...
Latin America: High/Low, Wind, Clouds, Precipitation...
Oceania: High/Low, Wind, Clouds, Precipitation...

THE AMERICAS

After 35 Years of Single-Party Rule, Paraguay Is Suddenly Euphoric

By Clifford Krauss
New York Times Service

ASUNCION, Paraguay — "Good-bye 20th century, good-bye assassins," reads a fresh scrawl of graffiti a block from the plaza where snipers killed five protesters who were demanding the overthrow of the president of Paraguay less than a week ago.

That sentiment sums up a sudden change of mood here, from desperation to euphoria, after the most rapid and complete overhaul of government and politics in this country since the 35-year dictatorship of General Alfredo Stroessner was overthrown in 1989.

Since President Raul Cubas Grau was forced to resign Sunday, and he and his military mentor fled into exile, the first civilian coalition government in a long history of one-party rule and military

dictatorship has emerged from a week of negotiations.

Leaders of the new "national unity" government are promising nothing less than a complete overhaul, including privatizing several inefficient government agencies and attacking the dominant Colorado Party's well-oiled apparatus, which is said to seek payoffs from smugglers and drug traffickers.

"We must seize this great opportunity to change the destiny of this country," Luis Gonzalez Macchi said in his first news session as president.

Mr. Gonzalez Macchi, 52, the former senate president and a former professional basketball player, succeeded Mr. Cubas because he was next in the succession line after the assassination of Vice President Luis Maria Argana last week.

The new president had an undistinguished career as a legislator and never

showed any desire to overhaul the Colorado Party, of which he is a member, experts and Western diplomats said.

But he emerged as a skilled conciliator from negotiations with two opposition parties that first led to Mr. Cubas' removal. He then put together a new cabinet, including two members each from the Liberal and National Encounter parties. The three parties also agreed to back a liberal as the vice-presidential candidate of the coalition in an election to be held in six months. This is the first time in 52 years that anyone not a member of the Colorado Party — which has controlled the government and military by doling out "pork" and favors — has held a cabinet position.

"Everything that happened from 1989 until Sunday was simply a continuation of the prior 35 years of Stroessner," said Mario Paz Castaing, a National En-

counter leader and second vice president of the senate. "But no longer will we have a Colorado government. From now on, this will be a national government."

Mr. Paz Castaing said Colorado leaders had been forced to agree to privatizing the government water, electricity and telephone companies, moves that would reduce the leaders' power by ceding 150,000 government jobs.

Nevertheless, Mr. Gonzalez Macchi also chose two veterans of the Stroessner administration as ministers of health and public works, in a sign that he is not able or willing to break entirely from the traditional apparatus.

"We've opened a door of hopes," said Carlos Martini, a political scientist at the Catholic University. "But we still have all the doubts that go with a weak economy and a political class that has no experience at governing in coalitions."

Mr. Martini warned that weakness in cotton and beef prices, as well as the recession in neighboring Brazil, threatened to produce a long-term slump that could weaken the new government's popularity. Widespread disenchantment could help pave the way for a comeback for General Lino Oviedo, the retired populist army commander who fled Sunday to escape charges that he had ordered the assassination of Mr. Argana. He was granted political asylum in Argentina.

General Oviedo won the primary for the Colorado presidential nomination last year. But he was forced to give up his candidacy when he was sentenced to jail for trying to overthrow a previous government, in 1996. For three years, Paraguay has careened from one crisis to another over jailing General Oviedo.

A collapse was averted when the ambassadors of Brazil, the United States and

the Vatican brought together Mr. Cubas and other political leaders to work out an agreement that would lead to the president's resignation and the new coalition. A crucial role was also played by the leaders of the army and air force, who made it clear to Mr. Cubas that they would not support him and General Oviedo, his mentor, over the will of congress and thousands of demonstrators.

U.S. officials said they hoped General Oviedo's departure would give the new government a chance to maneuver and mend relations with Washington.

The Clinton administration has repeatedly complained that Paraguay has made an insufficient effort at dismantling a vast underground economy that encompasses a wide range of activities like smuggling pirated CDs, videos and electronic goods; money laundering, and trafficking Bolivian cocaine.

POLITICAL NOTES

Clinton: No 'Badge of Shame'

WASHINGTON — President Bill Clinton said he did not regard his impeachment as something to be ashamed of, saying that it was unwarranted.

"I do not regard this impeachment vote as some great badge of shame," he told Dan Rather of CBS News on Wednesday. "I do not. Because I do not believe it was warranted, and I don't think it was right. I just don't have bad feelings about it, but neither do I have feelings of anger and bitterness against those who did what they did, whether they believed it or whether it was political or whatever. I just think it's past us and we need to put it behind us, and we need to go on."

In the interview broadcast on "60 Minutes II," Mr. Clinton said he never had any intention of resigning in the year-long investigation into his extramarital affair with Monica Lewinsky.

The House voted on Dec. 19 to impeach him and the Senate acquitted him on Feb. 12, after a trial.

Saying he gave no thought to resigning, the president told Mr. Rather: "I wouldn't do that to the Constitution. I wouldn't do that to the presidency. I wouldn't do that to the history of this country. I would never have legitimized what I believe is horribly wrong with what has occurred here over the last four or five years." (NYT)

Starr's \$6 Million in 6 Months

WASHINGTON — Kenneth Starr, the independent counsel, spent \$6.2 million during the six months last year when he was deposing Monica Lewinsky, the former White House intern, and concluding his impeachment case against President Bill Clinton, according to the General Accounting Office.

From April through September, Mr. Starr's spending on salaries, travel, rent, supplies and private outside contractors — along with special services from the FBI, Internal Revenue Service and other branches of government — increased more than 50 percent over the previous six months.

With the latest figures, Mr. Starr is closing in on the record for spending by an independent counsel: the \$47.4 million spent by Lawrence Walsh during the eight-year investigation of Reagan administration officials involved in the Iran-Contra affair.

Mr. Starr began his investigation of Whitewater and related matters in August 1994. Since then he has spent \$39.2 million probing Whitewater and Mr. Clinton's affair with Ms. Lewinsky.

Responding to the report, a spokesperson for Mr. Starr said: "The monumental effort required to conduct the investigation of Monica Lewinsky and others required an unusual commitment of resources." (WPT)

Quote/Unquote

Audie Elizabeth Bock, an Oakland, California, teacher poised to become the first Green Party member to win state office after she surprised a Democratic political veteran who outspent her 20 to 1 in a special election for the state assembly: "This is a message from the voters to the Democratic Party machine that they aren't happy with what they've been offered." (AP)

Mexico Governor Eludes Agents

Washington Post Service

MEXICO CITY — A state governor who is under investigation for alleged ties to Mexico's most powerful drug cartel has disappeared just days before police were expected to seek his arrest for drug trafficking and money laundering, according to law-enforcement officials in Mexico City.

Governor Mario Villanueva of the Yucatan Peninsula state of Quintana Roo had been under police surveillance but apparently eluded the agents who were tailing him, an official said.

Mr. Villanueva's six-year term in office, during which he has immunity from prosecution, ends Monday.

If Mr. Villanueva — who is a member of the governing Institutional Revolutionary Party — were to flee Mexico and evade charges, it would be a stunning blow to the country's justice system.

A Canadian Territory Celebrates Its Creation

But Nunavut Already Faces Social Problems

QALUIT, Nunavut — Fireworks and prayer ushered in the creation of Canada's newest territory Thursday, a vast Arctic region plagued with social problems that the native Inuit hope they will now be able to conquer.

In the first redrawing of Canada's maps in half a century, the territory of Nunavut was split off from the Northwest Territories at the stroke of midnight to become the country's third territory, covering one-fifth of Canada's land mass, from Hudson Bay to Ellesmere Island on the Arctic Ocean.

After an inter-denominational service and then fireworks over the frozen Frobisher Bay off the capital, Iqaluit, with a wind chill of minus 46 degrees centigrade (minus 51 Fahrenheit), judges with seal-fur sashes were sworn in as the first official act.

"The justice system we have today never quite worked with us," the new justice minister, Jack Anawak, said at the morning ceremony. "It was not culturally appropriate. It was imposed without our participation."

"We're going to be in a position to solve some of our own problems," Premier Paul Okalik said to reporters earlier, before the formal start of Nunavut, which means "Our Land" in Inuktitut, the Inuit language.

Mr. Okalik, 34, an Inuk (singular for Inuit), knows personally about some of the social problems facing his people. A recovered alcoholic, he served time in jail for a break-in, and his brother committed suicide. He is now Nunavut's only Inuk lawyer, but he feels keenly the problems his government will now face.

Nunavut, which was split off from the Northwest Territories, covers one-fifth of Canada's land mass. Most of its 27,000 inhabitants are Inuit.

Eighty-five percent of Nunavut's 27,000 people are Inuit, formerly called Eskimos. For thousands of years until the late 1950s and early 1960s, they roamed the frozen North, hunting and fishing, living in igloos and tents.

But it was a hard life, and they were enticed off the land by Canadian government programs that provided housing, heat, medicine, education and food.

"People getting into a wage economy and government assistance led to a sort of rash of suicides and alcohol abuse," Mr. Anawak said this week. "The men felt sidelined from being the hunter to not needing to hunt."

A quarter of the territory's residents are classified as heavy drinkers, three times the Canadian average. Every year three-quarters of a percent of the population kills themselves, six times the national rate.

Joblessness is chronic — 30 percent among the Inuit but only 4 percent among the non-Inuit. Less than half of Inuit aged 15 and over had a grade nine education and only



Residents of Iqaluit, the capital of Nunavut, joining in the predawn festivities on Thursday, which included fireworks, prayer and music, to usher in the region's status as Canada's newest territory.

1 percent had completed university. "We have to get out of this cycle of living on the welfare roll," Mr. Okalik said. One in three residents were on social assistance in 1996, more than three times the Canadian average.

Ottawa will pour in about 800 million Canadian dollars (\$530 million) a year into Nunavut — at an average cost of 30,000 dollars per resident. On top of that it has pledged more than 1 billion dollars over 14 years for a land claim settlement that is part of the overall deal.

Geography presents a particular challenge. The distance from the western edge of Nunavut to the eastern tip of Baffin Island opposite Greenland is as great as from London to Istanbul. There are only 12 miles (21 kilometers) of roads between towns.

The population density is only one inhabitant per 39 square miles (100 square kilometers), compared with 22,000 people in Germany and 1,100 in Ontario.

Government officials and others feel they will be better able to provide for, educate and inspire the

people than did the government of the Northwest Territories, based in Yellowknife — 1,100 miles west of Nunavut's capital.

"Yellowknife had no idea whom it was serving, to put it bluntly," said an Inuk banker, James Arreak. He said that the creation of Nunavut had brought hope and renewal for the Inuit.

Celebrating the new territory were traditional drum dancers and throat singers — two women facing each other close together, making low-pitched sounds like birds or animals.

AMERICAN TOPICS

Se Habla English?

The question of bilingual education in American schools has long been a vexed one, and particularly in areas in the Southwest with large populations of Hispanic immigrants. So when California voters sought to resolve the issue by requiring that all children in public schools be "taught English by being taught in English," those on the losing side of the ballot initiative bitterly complained of insensitivity to the needs of minority students.

But Proposition 227, which requires that non-English-speaking students take classes in which "nearly all" instruction is in English — the theory being that immersion is the quickest way to learn a language — has not been the death knell for bilingualism that some feared, says U.S. News & World Report.

Many students are learning far more in English than before. Thousands of others, however, still study basic subjects like math and science in Spanish, while also taking an hour or so of daily English lessons.

Parents are able to avoid the new provision by requesting waivers. Some school officials — in Oakland, for example, where the schools' bilingual office has messages in seven languages on its answering machine — have encouraged Hispanic parents to seek waivers.

Still, in the Los Angeles school district, the state's largest, the waiver rate of about 10 percent is below what was expected. Proposition 227 backers say they are pleased with the performance of children in immersion classes. The real test, however, comes July 1, when statewide test scores will be made public.

Short Takes

A Florida judge has ruled that the city of Boca Raton can tear down crosses, stars of David and other grave adornments in the municipal cemetery because the decorations are not essential for religious practice.

The ruling was believed to be the first of its kind in the nation.

Judge Kenneth Ryskamp said that removing the religious symbols, plants and stones would not trample the religious rights of family members. The Boca Raton cemetery permits only a horizontal plaque at the foot of each grave. The city said that the religious monuments were an obstacle for maintenance workers and violated longstanding rules. Families lease cemetery plots and do not own them.

About 400 families plan to appeal the ruling. In the meantime, the cemetery plots will be left untouched.

Americans' taste for bottled water has exploded in recent times, rising by 10 percent a year, partly based on the assumption that it was purer than tap water. That, it appears, is not necessarily the case.

In a four-year survey, the Natural Resources Defense Council, an environmental group, found that about a third of the 103 brands of bottled water it tested contained chemical or bacterial contamination beyond levels set by the government or industry. While "most bottled water apparently is

of good quality," the council said, "people are not always getting the purity they've paid for." The industry defended its standards, however, saying that they were strict and that there were no confirmed cases of illness linked to bottled water.

In New York, environmentalists are celebrating a judge's ruling that protects a den of rattlesnakes. A judge in Poughkeepsie ordered a mining company to tear down a "snake-proof" fence that state environmental officials said threatened the serpents. The company owner said he would fight the ruling, and leave the fence in place, about 260 feet (79 meters) from the snakes' den. "It's worth getting arrested over," he said.

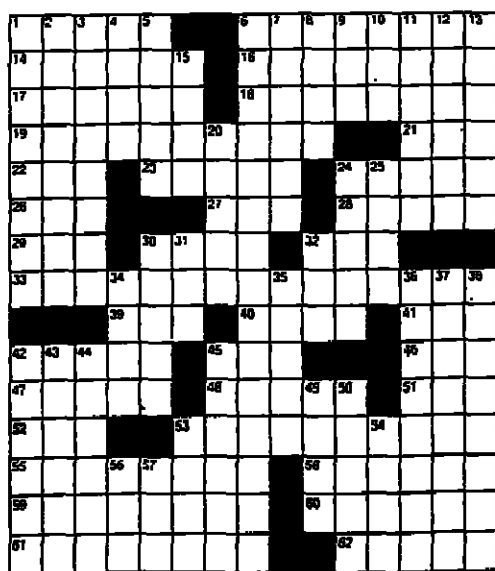
The fence, state officials said, would reduce the snakes' habitat and perhaps cause "physiological stress." The mining company points out that removing the fence could add to stress among humans in the area.

Brian Knowlton

CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- Like a leading wind
 - Search me!
 - Yellow
 - Revelatory cry
 - Spot spot
 - It may be a messager
 - Gymnastic event
 - Year in Henry II's reign
 - Cold war abbr.
 - Oozing
 - Heating shower
 - Cape —
 - Music collector's stack

- DOWN**
- Take —
 - Reveal, with "out"
 - Messour's ally, once
 - Heading abbr.
 - Sideshow performers
 - Emerson writing
 - Storm
 - Production
 - Storm producer
 - Occurring every 60 minutes
 - Owen Wister's "McLean"
 - Fed. property manager
 - Them
 - Conclude by



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Solution to Puzzle of April 1

JEANS HANA GEMS
ARIEL ICON OVEN
BERRA LEON LIRA
ROYALSDOAFILIP
SKI TIE CELTS
OAFPOLLSAIRLY
ALLEN AULD
KEEN WAYNE TUTU
OHMS OWNER
ADRYPOOLFALLS
CAPRA HEF PLA
APRILEPOOLSDAY
SLOE ALRO ARIAS
TECH CIO YENTA
EAST TANK SAGAN

Away From Politics

Four white New York policemen have pleaded not guilty to second-degree murder in the case of Amadou Diallo, an African immigrant whose death in a hail of gunfire spotlighted allegations of police racism and brutality. (Reuters)

The Reverend Henry Lyons, the former head of the National Baptist Convention, the biggest black church group in the United States, has been sentenced to five and a half years in prison for racketeering and grand theft. (Reuters)

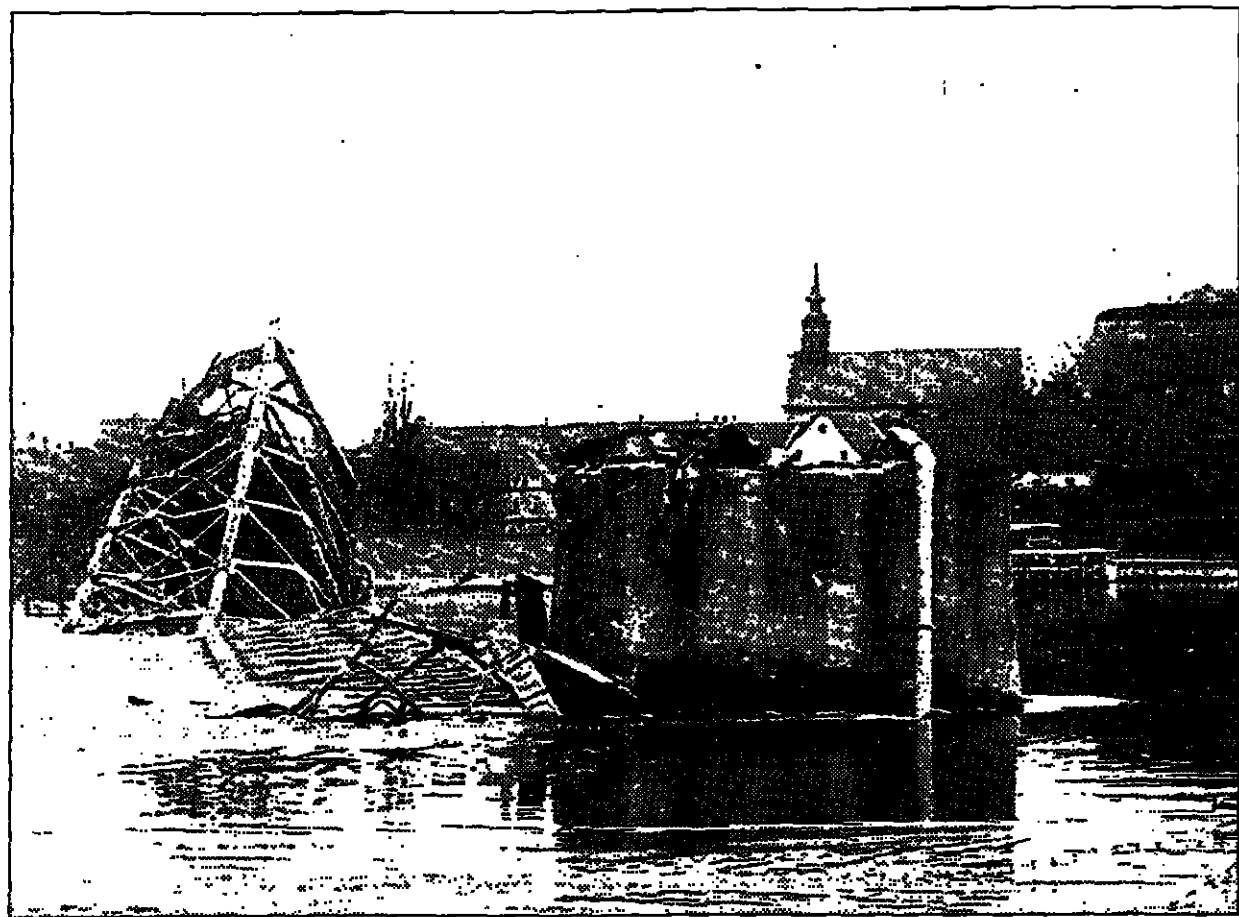
A \$30 million verdict against Michelin Tire Co. for a truck driver who lost his legs in a crash has been thrown out by an appeals court. Michelin should have been able to remove a woman from the jury pool whose daughter had been involved in a Michelin tire blowout similar to the one suffered by Julian Lovett, the 4th District Court of Appeals said Wednesday. The court ordered a new trial. (AP)

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Herald Tribune
THE WORLD'S DAILY NEWSPAPER

The Nightmare Deepens / 'What Are the Rebels' Prospects?'



The oldest bridge in Novi Sad over the Danube River, about 80 kilometers north of Belgrade, was destroyed in air strikes by NATO. A water supply line going over the bridge was also demolished.

POLICY: Despite Warnings, Allies Pushed Bombing Strategy

Continued from Page 1

outset that we couldn't prevent atrocities and crimes against humanity with just an air campaign," the officer in Brussels said. "But knowing that we had to keep an alliance of 19 nations together, we knew that if we asked for ground troops we would be asking the impossible."

The rejection of ground forces persisted despite growing signs of Mr. Milosevic's real intentions, including a remarkable signal from a Yugoslav general in October that senior military officials in Brussels now admit they missed. Had such signs been heeded, some officials now argue, politicians might have overcome their aversion to the use of troops.

The clue the allies missed, a high NATO officer said, came in a tense pre-dawn conversation in Belgrade early Oct. 25 between General Momo Perisic, then chief of the Yugoslav armed forces, and two NATO generals. The generals had come to demand fulfillment of promises to withdraw army and police units from Kosovo that Mr. Milosevic had made to a U.S. envoy, Richard Holbrooke, two weeks earlier.

The NATO officers — General Klaus Naumann of Germany, the alliance's senior military officer, and General Wesley Clark of the United States, the supreme allied commander — were sitting with General Perisic in the Presidential Palace, an officer said, when the Yugoslav suddenly sent a police escort out of the room and turned up the television.

"He said that he thought the army was the only democratic institution left in Yugoslavia and that he knew that conflict with NATO would inflict terrible damage to it," the officer said.

General Perisic seemed to be trying, this officer said, to make it clear that preserving the army from destruction, the threat the two Western generals had made if Mr. Milosevic did not relent, was more important to him than anything else.

General Clark and General Naumann left Belgrade with the commitments they had come for, but a month later, General Perisic was removed from office. Soon after that, Mr. Milosevic began totally disregarding his pledges.

"We think now that Perisic was removed because he didn't agree to the plan," the officer said. That meant, he said, that the Yugoslav authorities were developing the drastic Kosovo solution at the same time as they were making false promises to Mr. Holbrooke.

General Perisic was dismissed after the head of the Yugoslav Air Force, General Ljubisa Velickovic, was replaced on Oct. 30, and the head of the internal security service, Jovica Stanišić, was dismissed on Oct. 27. Some NATO officers now believe that this was part of a broad change in Serbia's strategic leadership in preparation for the offensive under way in Kosovo.

And political authorities in Washington and in Europe also disregarded or played down other warnings of what the

Serbs were up to.

Senior administration and congressional officials in Washington, for example, cited an American military intelligence assessment completed shortly before the allied air campaign began last week that concluded that Mr. Milosevic intended to "ethnically cleanse" 1.8 million Albanians within a week.

Officials in Washington dismissed the plan as Serbian bravado and confidently boasted that Kosovo Liberation Army fighters, plus a few days of allied bombing, would be enough to show Mr. Milosevic that he was mistaken.

Instead of planning to send in ground forces, President Clinton and other leaders spent months threatening Serbia with bombing while sending diplomats to try to negotiate a peace settlement they were almost sure Mr. Milosevic would accept.

At the time, Mr. Clinton was devoting

'We were not surprised by what Milosevic has done. There is historical amnesia if anyone says they are surprised.'

much of his energy to fighting impeachment charges in Congress. Mr. Milosevic, for his part, used the months to prepare the vast expulsion in Kosovo.

The Yugoslav president soon demonstrated that he had no intention of carrying out his commitments, but the allies did not begin to reactivate the bombing threats they had used to extract those promises from him until the beginning of the year. By then, violence by both Kosovo Liberation Army irregulars and Serbian forces had made a mockery of the cease-fire.

The massacre of scores of unarmed Albanian civilians in the village of Racak early in January increased pressure in allied capitals for diplomatic action, backed by the threat of force, to stop such outrages by Serbian military and police units in Kosovo.

As the allies had done throughout the mounting crisis, they followed the lead of the six-nation Contact Group of countries — the United States, Britain, France, Germany, Italy and Russia — that were trying to find a political settlement in Kosovo.

That, some officers now believe, was a mistake, since Russia was consistently opposed to bombing or any other allied action against Mr. Milosevic.

Reservations by the Europeans about letting the alliance act without an explicit mandate from the UN Security Council, a mandate Russia seemed certain to veto there, built in further delay.

But on Jan. 29, backed by NATO, the Contact Group demanded that the Serbs and the Albanians go to Rambouillet Castle in France on Feb. 6 to negotiate a peace settlement.

On Jan. 30, the allies gave NATO's secretary-general, Javier Solana Madariaga, the authority to tell General Clark to bomb targets on Yugoslav territory if it took bombing to get the Serbs to negotiate.

ing and threats of enemy cruelty.

Crowds of ethnic Albanian civilians were said to be backed up at border-crossing points as neighboring countries sought to slow the influx, which threatened to swamp facilities and, much more alarming, aggravate internal ethnic tensions and suspicions to a point of political crisis.

As air strikes went into their eighth day, weather was expected to improve in the Serbian skies, lifting the cloud ceiling that has hampered U.S. and European warplanes' attacks against Serbian tanks and other mobile military targets. NATO appeared to launch its biggest air raids so far as witnesses reported that an estimated 100 planes had taken off from bases in Italy on Thursday.

With improved flying conditions expected for several days, alliance commanders had promised to hammer Serbian ground forces in Kosovo and their supply routes in order to break their military presence in Kosovo.

But General Clark said that NATO was inhibited in launching air strikes near civilians because the ground spotters who normally guide planes to their targets in these circumstances were not available in Kosovo, where NATO apparently has been unable to infiltrate its own commandos for this purpose or to rely on Kosovo Liberation Army guer-

It took the allies — 16 of them then, before Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic came in earlier last month — most of the day to get to that point. Still, they hemmed in Mr. Solana's freedom to decide to launch the bombers, conditioning the move on a concurring assessment by the Contact Group.

"In my view, the biggest mistake we made was agreeing to be taken hostage by the Contact Group," an allied officer said. "It hurt solidarity within the alliance, and some of the non-Contact Group countries reacted to it like a Spanish bull to a red flag."

As the peace talks started in Rambouillet, NATO officials said, allied intelligence began picking up disturbing signs that Serbian Army was moving into position in and just north of Kosovo.

Some of these troop movements, they said, were called "winter exercises."

"We always thought they were preparing for some kind of a military solution in the spring," he said. "We anticipated that he would try to wipe out the Kosovo Liberation Army and not be very nice to the civilian population."

But the presumption was that the Serbs would concentrate on the guerrillas and not go after civilians en masse.

Barring a peace agreement, to be enforced by a 28,000-member NATO force, including 4,000 U.S. troops, administration officials in Washington said there were varying assumptions about what action Yugoslavia would take.

"If fighting escalates in the spring, as we expect, it will be bloodier than last year's," the director of central intelligence, George Tenet, told the Senate Armed Services Committee on Feb. 2.

"Belgrade will seek to crush the KLA once and for all, while the insurgents will have the capability to inflict heavier casualties on Serb forces," he said. "Both sides likely will step up attacks on civilians."

"Heavier fighting also will result in another humanitarian crisis, possibly greater in scale than last year's, which created 250,000 refugees and internally displaced persons along with hundreds of destroyed buildings and homes," Mr. Tenet said.

William Cohen, the U.S. defense secretary, and General Henry Shelton, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, were adamantly opposed to sending ground troops into Kosovo without a clearly defined mission.

Moreover, State Department and White House officials said, Congress, which only reluctantly backed air strikes, would oppose ground troops.

Even if the administration had mustered the political will to mount a 200,000-member force, it would have taken months to move that many troops into place. Pentagon officials also warned that such a deployment would probably only provoke Mr. Milosevic to attack before it was completed.

So the administration and NATO decided to use air power alone, for all its limitations.

illas trained for that mission.

Meanwhile, questions were being pressed harder in Western capitals by political leaders and media commentators about possible changes in the alliance's tactics if Mr. Milosevic continued to hold the initiative and the sophisticated Western arsenal failed to subdue his comparatively rudimentary forces as they continued wreaking havoc on the ground.

Questions also surfaced about Western war aims, including suggestions that Mr. Milosevic had already gone too far for the West to maintain its avowed goal of making a political deal with him.

In a bid to deter Serbian leaders and perhaps aggravate dissidence in the military, Western leaders vowed that those who committed war crimes would face international prosecution.

But ignoring Western warnings, Mr. Milosevic intervened in the affairs of Montenegro, dismissing the army commander there and replacing him Wednesday with a close personal ally, General Miroslav Obradovic. The small republic, Serbia's partner in the Yugoslav Federation, has distanced itself from Belgrade at Western urging.

Mr. Milosevic's action, reported by Tanjug, the official Yugoslav news agency but not independently confirmed, could signal an imminent military coup

Kosovo Guerrilla Army Facing Defeat

NATO Airdrops of Heavy Weapons Are Sought to Battle Yugoslav Forces

By Peter Finn
Washington Post Service

KUKES, Albania — The ethnic Albanian rebel group whose yearlong battle to win independence for Kosovo brought world attention to the province is facing imminent military defeat unless NATO airdrops heavy weaponry to help the guerrillas survive a relentless assault by Yugoslav forces, according to a leading figure in the group.

Azen Sylja, a founder of the Kosovo Liberation Army and a member of its central council, said in an interview Wednesday that Yugoslav Army troops and Serbian special police units had cut off the guerrillas' supply lines from Albania since the North Atlantic Treaty Organization began its bombing campaign against Yugoslav military targets

March 24. He said the rebels were retreating across broad areas of Kosovo.

Without anti-tank and anti-aircraft weapons, Mr. Sylja said, the rebels will be forced to abandon their fight. He said the Kosovo Liberation Army had appealed to NATO for arms but had received no response.

Western officials shared Mr. Sylja's bleak assessment.

One U.S. official in Washington called the rebels' position desperate. Another described recent attacks by government forces as devastating. He added: "What are the rebels' prospects? Dim. They've been running out of ammo and supplies; they've been reduced to isolated pockets."

The Clinton administration has viewed the Kosovo Liberation Army with skepticism. The United States and

its NATO allies want political autonomy, not independence, for Kosovo, a province of Serbia. Yugoslavia's dominant republic.

Moreover, U.S. officials have said repeatedly that they do not want NATO planes to become "the KLA's air force," even as they support the rebel group's resistance to government repression.

The effect of a crushing military defeat for the Kosovo Liberation Army is uncertain, especially as it now plays a minor role in the confrontation between NATO and the Belgrade government. As rebel leaders acknowledge, the guerrillas have been unable to protect Kosovo's ethnic Albanians, who made up 90 percent of the province's prewar population, from atrocities and expulsions.

PRISTINA: Harrowing Tales of Terror and Forced Evacuation

Continued from Page 1

One train load was sent to the Macedonian border. At least three babies were born last night in the railroad station, the refugees said.

During Wednesday night, the Serbs brought in fleets of buses and large trucks, including freezer trucks of the kind used to transport sides of beef, the refugees said.

Many spent hours packed into the buses and trucks until they were driven south past burning villages early in the morning and dumped out at the last village, Szur, to walk the final few miles to the border.

"You cannot imagine what happened," wailed Suzana Krunicki, collapsing in tears a few steps over the border with her elderly parents. "I was watching television, 'Sky News,' and I walked out into the garden and there were three people with black masks and big guns," she said.

"They wanted to kill my mommy. They said you give me money or I will kill her," she said. "I had 550 Deutsche marks hidden in my sock and I gave it to him."

"They were not policemen. They were criminals Milosevic let out of jail. It is not easy to earn money," she said. "But I don't care about the money. They wanted to kill my parents."

"In every house they broke the doors. When we went out everyone was in the street walking between men with black masks and big weapons," she sobbed, as she went on to describe the forced march and a sleepless night at the railroad station.

"All Pristina is empty today. No Albanians. Only Serbians with guns, they all have guns," she said. "Can the world see what they are doing?"

The long lines of silent, shaken refugees, many crying, stretched all around her. Among the seemingly endless procession of people atop carts pulled by tractors was 98-year-old Shahin Jhabani, stretched motionless on a wheelbarrow, his feet in maroon socks dangling over the wheel, a few odd family possessions, a blanket, a pair of woman's high-heel shoes and a brightly colored child's jacket tucked around him.

By 7 o'clock Thursday evening, 13,000 people had crossed over the border, a process made painfully slow for much of the day by the Albanian authorities' insistence on a new procedure for registering the refugees.

Actually, what they were registering mostly was their automobiles — stripped of license plates by the Serbs — and issuing a mimeographed piece of paper good for a month.

Late in the afternoon, after pressure from European aid officials and the flood of people on foot, the system eased somewhat.

But in the darkness there were still many thousands of people backed up nearly 16 kilometers (10 miles) into the Serbian territory, a line constantly receiving more people, even as it inched forward, from Pristina and other areas to the north.

"They exploded something at the main door of our house," said Ruzhid Morina, 36. "Four police with masks came in. Their first demand was money. At this moment the children were frightened and started to cry."

"We took only the things we had at hand, two blankets for the kids and a plastic sheet in case it rains," he said. "All this happened in just five minutes

and we were made to leave the house."

"On both sides of the street were long lines of Serb police in masks and we had to walk between them to the train station."

As the procession passed a movie theater, he said, police in a white Opel Cadet cruised alongside, videotaping him.

After the march and the long night in the train station, Arsim Rahmani, 26, said he could see from the windows of the bus that there were no Albanians.

CAPTIVES: 3 Were Doing Routine Patrol

Continued from Page 1

They were patrolling in a Humvee, a U.S. armored vehicle on big tires, that is fast and versatile on rough terrain.

"It is fully armored and weighs about seven tons," said Sergeant Ellis, the public affairs officer at the unit's base at the main airport just outside Skopje. The men must have been outside the vehicle when apprehended, he suggested. "They must have been out scouting, which they do quite often," Sergeant Ellis said.

"They were good soldiers," he added. "You don't want that to happen to anyone, but especially when they are your friends." The three men had only arrived for a six-month tour of duty on Feb. 16, from the squadron's base near Würzburg, Germany.

The region where they disappeared is full of curving valleys between craggy cliffs and ridges. Small farming villages with red-tiled houses nestle in the valleys. At the village of Pelince, just a mile short of the border with Yugoslavia, half a dozen armed police were standing outside a whitewashed building.

Several others, dressed in camouflage fatigues, disappeared quickly inside. The men outside were Macedonian police, but one man on the edge of the group had a Yugoslav flag on the sleeve of his uniform.

Most appeared to be ethnic Serbs and clearly sympathized with their Serb neighbors, who less than a decade ago had been their countrymen.

They spoke out angrily against the NATO bombing in Serbia. "We hear the planes and hear the explosions as they bomb," said one.

They said they knew nothing of the missing U.S. servicemen but said they had seen them come through regularly on patrol.

Western Europe Pledges Aid To Ease Plight of Refugees

The Associated Press

BONN — Balkan countries flooded by waves of Kosovo refugees won a promise of increased aid Thursday from West European nations attending an emergency conference on the humanitarian crisis.

The German foreign minister, Joschka Fischer, who led the meeting, said the help would focus on Albania and Macedonia — impoverished neighboring countries inundated with refugees. "These two countries can't be left to face this situation alone," Mr. Fischer said. Among the measures agreed on by the European Union and eight Balkan nations at the meeting was establishing a "regular airlift" to supply food, medicine, shelter and other necessities.

The participants urged NATO to contribute aircraft to assist the humanitarian effort. They also affirmed their support for the NATO bombing campaign. Before the conference, Germany, which currently chairs the 15-nation European Union, pledged "massive aid" to help the over-

welmed Balkan countries handle the refugees and keep them from flooding into western Europe.

Deputy Foreign Minister Günter Verheugen, back from a trip to the region, said on German radio, "Our concept is to keep the refugees as close as possible to Kosovo."

In Geneva, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees said more than 156,000 Kosovars had crossed into Albania, Macedonia and Montenegro since last week and that the exodus was gaining speed.

Albania has been hardest hit, with at least 100,000 refugees flooding across from the mostly ethnic Albanian province. Part of the conference's aim was to seek pledges by less affected countries in the region to take in refugees.

Germany has a particular stake in the crisis, fearing a repeat of the refugee wave triggered in 1992 by the Bosnian conflict. Germany took in more than 350,000 Bosnians, more than any other European country, and some 100,000 have yet to go home.

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Herald Tribune

THE WORLD'S DAILY NEWSPAPER

سكربتات و البرامج

The Nightmare Deepens / Turning Up the Rhetoric

From NATO, Much Rhetoric and Few Details About the Air Strikes

By Brian Knowlton
International Herald Tribune

WASHINGTON — Kenneth Bacon, the Pentagon spokesman, is as somber, cautious and understated in his press briefings as almost anyone in Washington.

His recent briefings on Yugoslavia reflect that austere tone.

With his dead-earnest look and signature bowtie, he shows little emotion, except to stiffly bristle if a questioner asks for information that Mr. Bacon clearly considers an idiotic breach of security: What specific targets NATO planes plan to hit next, for example, or even what altitude they will fly at. Beyond that, he offers few opinions.

Meanwhile, in Brussels, the briefings at North Atlantic Treaty Organization headquarters have been quite a different story.

The alliance's two chief spokesmen on the Kosovo conflict, both of them British — Jamie Shea, a civilian, and Air Commodore David Wilby — have been pleasantly civil, bright-faced, affable and collegial in their daily briefings.

They occasionally congratulate reporters on the quality of their questions.

But what has startled many who have seen the briefings, in person or on television, are levels of rhetoric quite unexpected from an organization traditionally understated in its lean public pronouncements.

At the same time, hard details on the action in Yugoslavia have been few.

The rhetoric coming out of NATO has been curiously overblown, said Carnes Lord, a visiting professor of international relations at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University, in Medford, Massachusetts. "I don't think it's done any good."

The NATO briefers have drawn parallels between the "ethnic cleansing" by Serbian forces and the atrocities in Cambodia in the 1970s that left more than one million people dead.

They have spoken of "genocide" and compared President Slobodan Milosevic's actions to those of Hitler, whose war machine and concentration camps killed many millions.

Despite the enormity of the Serbs' assaults on Kosovo Albanians, analysts say, they appear to fall below the truly genocidal levels of killings by the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia or by Hitler's Germany — not to mention the 1994 massacres of an estimated half a million people in tribal

warfare in Rwanda, which U.S. officials declined to describe as a "genocide."

In addition, some of the news has emerged in seemingly incautious fashion. When two MiG-29s were shot down by alliance jets over Bosnia, officials at first said that the Yugoslav planes apparently had intended to attack NATO ground forces there.

Later it was announced that the planes carried only air-to-air weaponry.

This week, Commodore Wilby quoted "reliable sources" as saying that five top Albanian Kosovo leaders had been executed by Serbian forces. U.S. officials repeated the report.

But on Wednesday, Reuters quoted both U.S. diplomatic sources and Kosovo Albanian sources as saying that at least two of the five were still alive.

Some of this may be attributed to heat-of-the-moment analyses and an understandable desire in time of war to give a favorable spin to dire, and sometimes confusing, events.

But C. Kenneth Allard, a senior associate at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, said that by engaging in "overstatement" and "overblown rhetoric," the alliance risked jeopardizing its credibility — in an operation intended in part to protect that credibility.

Others described the NATO rhetoric as understandable.

The alliance has been caught off guard by Serbian ferocity and the dramatic failure of alliance air power to halt atrocities on the ground. The alliance has been surprised to find itself facing "a guy who has an unlimited degree of seriousness in his prosecution of this war," said Mr. Allard, a former army colonel.

Eliot Cohen, professor of strategic studies at the School for Advanced International Studies of Johns Hopkins University, said that if some NATO rhetoric had a "desperate" tone, it appeared to "reflect some genuine moral anguish at the spectacle of what is, after all, a very small country, holding NATO at bay and — with a kind of brutal smirk — flaunting its cruelty."

Dana Allin, an analyst with the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London, echoed that comment. "Almost everyone is truly taken aback by the magnitude of ethnic cleansing," he said.

There was a sort of collective failure of imagination about how this would play out. New people are really shocked, including in the U.S. and British governments and NATO.

He believes the use of words like "genocide" also reflect part of a "conscious decision-making process, indicating that they're going to take this

seriously — and they don't intend to lose."

The alliance has had to defend itself against charges that the air attacks might have provoked, or magnified, the assaults on Kosovo Albanians by Serbian forces, analysts said.

"They fell back on the humanitarian rationale," said Mr. Lord, "because that was the easiest way" to get public support.

To some extent, the analysts said, the contrast in U.S. and NATO briefings reflects cultural differences. The tight control of substantial information, Mr. Allard said, represents an "interesting culture clash — an infinitely more formal approach to the use of information" by the British briefers than what Americans are used to.

"It's very NATO," he said, "it really is. In any decision now, you have 19 sides, from the 19 governments — you're getting statements by committee."

In fact, the NATO briefings have not been entirely out of sync with what has been said in various capitals, particularly London. The British defense minister, George Robertson, has spoken of "genocide," as has his German counterpart, Rudolf Scharping. And President Bill Clinton has drawn parallels to the Nazi atrocities before and during World War II.

Milosevic Is Warned Not to Mistreat Captives Clinton Says U.S. 'Takes Care of Its Own'

By Brian Knowlton
International Herald Tribune

WASHINGTON — President Bill Clinton gravely warned President Slobodan Milosevic on Thursday that the United States would hold him responsible for the safety of three U.S. soldiers captured near the Macedonia-Yugoslav border. He said NATO would pursue its air campaign undeterred.

"President Milosevic should make no mistake," Mr. Clinton told a group of sailors and airmen and their families at a naval base in Norfolk, Virginia. "The United States takes care of its own."

"We will hold him and his government responsible for their safety and their well-being," he said. "We will continue to carry out our mission with determination and resolve."

It was among Mr. Clinton's most passionate defenses of the NATO air assault on Yugoslavia. He appeared mindful of the impact the soldiers' capture might have on public opinion in a country still weighing the costs of action in a country it knows little about.

As he spoke, standing in a hangar before a F/A-18 Hornet fighter jet, his words were met with loud applause.

Mr. Clinton forcefully objected to any plans by Yugoslav authorities to try the three soldiers before a military court.

"There was absolutely no basis for them to be taken," Mr. Clinton said. "There is no basis for them to be held. There is certainly no basis for them to be tried."

During Mr. Clinton's televised speech, CNN split its screen to show a nearly unending stream of refugees crossing from Kosovo into Macedonia. Many refugees have brought tales of violence and executions at the hands of Serbian police and troops.

The president expressed unbending determination to pursue the assault against Yugoslav targets until Mr. Milosevic pulls back his forces from the province of Kosovo and accepts a framework for peace.

"We cannot do everything in the world," he said, "but we must do what we can. We can never forget the Holocaust, the genocide, the carnage of the 20th century. We don't want the new century to bring us the same nightmares in a different guise."

Mr. Clinton said that Serbian forces were "rampaging through tiny Kosovo," executing ethnic Albanians "in cold blood," and burning houses, "sometimes, we now hear, with people inside."

"If we were to do nothing," he said, "eventually our allies and then the United States would be drawn into a larger conflict, at far greater risks to our people and far greater costs."

He said that while Mr. Milosevic had paid lip service Wednesday to the need for a negotiated solution, his "forces continued to hunt down the very people with whom he was supposed to be negotiating."

Mr. Clinton insisted that NATO had "tried and tried and tried every conceivable peaceful alternative" to solve the Kosovo problem.

But the Yugoslav president, Mr. Clinton said, "acts like he wants to take Serbia back to the 14th century."

The three soldiers were shown on Serbian television, two of them with bruised faces.

U.S. spokesmen have expressed outrage over the soldiers' detention. While declining to classify the three as prisoners of war, since the United States has said it is not at war with Yugoslavia, the State Department spokesman, James Rubin, nonetheless said any trial would be "ridiculous" and "in violation of international law."

Hackers Failing, NATO Says

By John Schwartz
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — The digital harassment waged by Yugoslav hackers against NATO has not compromised any sensitive computer networks, alliance officials said, and the NATO web site appeared to be operating normally Thursday.

NATO acknowledged Web site problems Wednesday and described them as more of a nuisance than a real threat. "We have been dealing with some hackers in Belgrade who have hacked into our Web site and caused line saturation of the server," said Jamie Shea, a NATO spokesman.

That means that rogue computer users are sending a lot of messages and computer commands into NATO's computers, said Carlo

Tomada, a NATO network specialist in Brussels.

At no time, however, have sensitive computer networks been entered, and no files or programs have been corrupted, Mr. Tomada said. "It's not hacking at all."

Yugoslav hackers have also sent at least a dozen computer viruses into NATO's networks, he said.

But the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's virus protection software caught the programs before they became a problem, and the system has not been compromised, Mr. Tomada said. NATO computer network specialists have been able to filter out messages from the offending computers and clean the viruses out of the network. "It's not dangerous," he said. "But it's really inconvenient."



Mr. Clinton conferring Thursday with Admiral Harold Gehman, Atlantic Fleet commander, right; General Hugh Shelton, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, center, and Defense Secretary Cohen.

History Haunts Israelis' Reaction

Lukewarm Support for Allies Outrages Some Who Remember War

By Lee Hockstader
Washington Post Service

JERUSALEM — When the West employs the term "genocide" and compares President Slobodan Milosevic of Yugoslavia with Adolf Hitler, many Israelis pay close attention.

As victims, or relatives of victims, of the 20th century's deadliest genocide, Jews feel a special moral resonance in atrocities committed against ethnic minorities in Europe.

But the current crisis in Kosovo is regarded with some ambivalence in Israel, despite the scale of the bloodshed. While the suffering and persecution of the ethnic Albanians is universally condemned, some Israelis are nevertheless deeply uneasy with the West's bombing campaign against the Serbs.

Many Israelis regard the latest Balkan upheaval and its main protagonists through a prism colored by historical memory of Serbian and Albanian behavior during World War II, political anxiety about current threats to Israel and cultural prejudice.

For its part, the Israeli government at first balked at criticizing the Serbs directly and has refused to explicitly support NATO air strikes. Only after several days of sustained criticism in the Israeli press did Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Tuesday condemn massacres by "the Serbs or any other group," both "from the point of view of our history and our moral sense."

Israel has so far decided to send just \$100,000 worth of medicine, tents and clothing to the Kosovo Albanian refugees in Albania, a pittance compared with the West's donations, or Taiwan's, even in per-capita terms.

When Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon was asked whether he supported the NATO bombing, he replied, "We were not asked," adding, "It is not our job to comment on this." Other cabinet ministers agreed.

This lukewarm official stance has enraged many Israelis who believe that Jews have a unique historical and moral obligation to speak out for persecuted minorities who face massacres and possible genocide.

For these Israelis, the exhortation "never again" applies broadly, not only to the specter of another Holocaust against Jews but also to genocidal wars elsewhere, particularly in Europe.

But there is another group for whom "never again" has a more limited application, principally to Jews. It further complicates matters that the victims in Kosovo are Muslims, who Mr. Sharon said were in league with the pro-Iranian Hezbollah, which is fighting the Israeli Army in southern Lebanon.

For some on the political right, the main historical imperative is "Jewish survival at all costs," said Efraim Zuroff, Israel director of the Los Angeles-based Simon Wiesenthal Center. "Their lesson from the Holocaust is, 'If the Kosovo Albanian victims are our enemies or people sympathetic to our enemies, and the perpetrators are our friends, then we have to be more careful.'"

History-minded Israelis know that the Serbs, alongside other Yugoslav partisans under their wartime leader Tito — who became the country's postwar Communist president — stood up against the Nazis and eventually beat them back, at great cost in blood. Instances of Serbian anti-Semitism, or collaboration with the Nazis in the extermination of Serbia's Jews, were rare.

The Kosovo Albanians, by contrast, joined a German SS division toward the end of the war.

But to some Israelis, the plight of the Kosovo Albanians bears enough resemblance to that of the Palestinians, or Israel's own million-strong Arab minority, to be unsettling.

Like Israeli Arabs, the ethnic Albanians in Kosovo are a Muslim minority in a sovereign state. Like the Palestinians, they aspire to create an independent state on land they regard as their birthright. What if some future Israeli government refuses to sign a peace accord with the Palestinians, as Mr. Milosevic's Serbia refused to sign one with the Kosovo Albanians?

But despite such views, the persecution in Kosovo has struck a chord. Many Israelis hear in the Albanians' plight distinct echoes of the Holocaust. They note that NATO's response is exactly what Jews wanted, and were refused, by the Allies in World War II.

Tanks and Mortars Herding Refugees

'Paramilitaries Burning the Houses'

By John Kifner
New York Times Service

KUKES, Albania — Serbian forces are now shelling villages, towns and cities across a wide swath of Kosovo, according to refugees arriving here. The shelling has driven more than 10,000 ethnic Albanians from their homes, according to figures from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Bombardment from tanks and mortars began in some areas around 9 P.M. on Tuesday and continued Wednesday, refugees said. Villages and towns were reported in flames in an arc surrounding the cities of Prizren and Djakovica.

Other refugees said they were from Pristina, the Kosovo capital, the first large group to arrive in Albania from that city. They reported that Pristina was in flames, with widespread death and destruction.

It has not been possible to confirm the refugees' accounts, but Air Commodore David Wilby, a NATO spokesman, said in Brussels that a "large number" of refugees and some separatist rebel troops were trapped in the Pagarusa Valley, about 50 kilometers (30 miles) southwest of Pristina, where three brigades of Yugoslav and Serb forces were "raining artillery fire" on them.

There was a stark difference in the appearance of the refugees who arrived in Kukes on Wednesday from those who crossed the border Tuesday in response, they said, to Serbs' orders to leave or be killed.

On Tuesday, the refugees seemed stunned, their faces frozen. On Wednesday, their faces were contorted, many weeping or on the verge of tears.

"When we were driving down the street, all the shops and houses were burning on both sides around us," said an elderly man aboard one of three city buses packed with frightened people that arrived Wednesday afternoon from Djakovica.

"The bombardment has been going on since yesterday," Gjergj Memur, 33, said from the door of the first bus from Djakovica. "There are hundreds of dead people. The police and the paramilitaries are burning the houses."

An elderly man driving a tractor pulling a cart full of

refugees said that in Prizren, "they attacked at 9 o'clock in the evening — boom, boom — they fired with many types of guns."

At the wheel of the next tractor, Zenel Kadushi said: "All the villages surrounding Prizren are burned down. On this tractor are people from 10 different villages."

Refugees from Prizren and Djakovica said that in both cities, Serbian forces had moved from military-style encampments and taken shelter in factory buildings to avoid becoming targets of the air strikes by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. There have been similar reports from other areas of the Serbs dispersing their men and equipment for cover in civilian areas.

By 9 P.M. on Wednesday, 10,000 people had passed the border crossing at Morini, according to figures compiled by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, joining 84,600 others who have arrived since the crossing was opened Saturday after being sealed for 11 months.

About 3,000 others have managed to get over the border in the rugged mountains northwest of here and are being assembled in Kruma, Albania.

Earlier, as rain began to fall, Albanian officials instituted a new and cumbersome system of registering all refugees, who have been routinely and methodically stripped of passports and all other identity documents by Serbs at the border. Albanian officials processed only 200 people in the space of an hour.

A long line of refugees, many of them on foot, was left stretching back across the border into Serbian territory. Some refugees estimated the length of the line at about 15 kilometers.

Serbian officials asked the Albanians to please hurry up.

But earlier in the day it was the Serbs who delayed the flow. It has become the custom of the Serbian border guards, after a morning of robbing refugees and unbaiting their license plates, to close the border at midday while they enjoy a long lunch, coming back to work at 2 P.M.

Many of the refugees said they had been walking for three days without food or water.

Kosovo Is a New Kind of Crisis for the West, and Perhaps a Prototype

By R.W. Apple Jr.
New York Times Service

BUDAPEST — Kosovo could be a template for the century to come.

The crisis there, which has produced a stern test for NATO and a catastrophe for the ethnic Albanians who form the province's overwhelming majority, bears little resemblance to the Cold War that shaped the last half of this century. It is not about ideology. It does not directly involve the vital political or economic interests of the great powers. It carries with it no threat of nuclear annihilation.

Yet it presents precisely the kind of problem that the Western democracies, for all their wealth and military might, find it most difficult to cope with. And it is likely to be repeated elsewhere.

Unlike World War II, or even the wars in Korea or Vietnam, crises like this take place in a twilight zone, full of uncertainty, where rules are formulated (and broken) as the participants choose. It is hard to measure who is winning, sometimes harder to know who has won.

One catalyst for the Kosovo "war," if that is the correct term, is the mounting belief in much of Europe and North America that human rights matter more than national sovereignty — that no leaders, whether democratically chosen or self-appointed, have the right to slaughter their citizens. Another catalyst is modern television.

NATO's bombing in Kosovo, a clear sign that the West puts a higher priority on human rights than on sovereignty, began a week ago.

On that same day, England's highest court ruled that General Augusto Pinochet, the former Chilean president, could be extradited to Spain on charges of crimes against humanity, even though under Chilean law he is exempt from prosecution for the offenses alleged, which occurred in his own country.

Both events dramatized the weakening of sovereignty, a development that disturbs both China and Russia.

If slaughter and television come together, as they did in Kosovo, "right-minded" people in Europe and America demand that their own governments do something about it. (If television is absent, as it largely was from the genocide in Rwanda, the demand is much less insistent, however great the loss of innocent life may prove to be.)

The United Nations is often in no position to act.

Such is the case this time, with Moscow and Beijing ready to cast vetoes in the Security Council.

So the burden falls upon the Western democracies, which usually means the United States, acting in concert with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, as in Kosovo, through an ad hoc alliance, as in the Gulf War, or sometimes alone.

But the new ardor for human rights, even when fanned by violence and misery on the television screen, stops

well short of heedless passion. Few American or French or Belgian families are willing to risk the lives of large numbers of their sons and daughters in ground combat.

Because of the Vietnam quagmire, which still registers powerfully on the American political consciousness, the reluctance to commit ground troops is especially marked in the United States, particularly when the underlying strategic goals are ill-defined.

The answer to this paradox, so far at least, is air power: bombs and cruise missiles, launched from as far away and as high an altitude as possible to minimize the chances of a pilot's being captured.

For television can cut two ways: pictures of human calamity can arouse the Western world to act, but pictures of Western soldiers or airmen dying or suffering humiliation, as in Somalia, can quickly discourage action.

By itself, air power may not prove adequate. In the case of Kosovo, it has

given the Serbs time to intensify their campaign against the ethnic Albanians. Like the air strikes against President Saddam Hussein of Iraq, these may have caused a stiffening rather than a weakening of resolve.

And even if the bombs eventually cripple the military forces of President Slobodan Milosevic of Yugoslavia, it may be too late; most of the "ethnic cleansing" may already have been completed.

One possibility for additional action is sending arms to the Kosovo Liberation Army. Another is to try to foment a military coup against Mr. Milosevic. Still another is to begin laying a political predicate for sending in NATO ground troops. Clearly, some of the allies would resist such a move, and President Bill Clinton has said he has no intention of committing Americans in an offensive role.

The prospect of a diplomatic deal remains dim as long as NATO insists, as it did after the attempted Russian me-

diation this week, that its troops be allowed to monitor any peace in Kosovo — an idea that profoundly offends the Serbs.

More likely is an indecisive, lingering conflict, not unlike the one in Iraq, with the dictator still in power and the West repeatedly frustrated.

"Make no mistake," said a Balkan diplomat who knows Mr. Milosevic and talks with him often. "The man pays attention, and he has watched Saddam Hussein gain strength as the bombs have fallen."

The two situations are different, of course. Mr. Saddam is not currently engaged in ethnic cleansing, for one thing.

But Kosovo and Iraq closely resemble each other in one crucial respect: neither problem seems susceptible to a short, sharp solution.

Wars like the one in the Falkland Islands, where victor and vanquished emerged quickly in 1982, look like a thing of the past.

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EUROPE

Ulster Talks Adjourn, But Blair Stays Upbeat

As Deadline for Accord Passes, Leaders See Chance to Get Framework for Disarmament

By Warren Hoge
New York Times Service

HILLSBOROUGH, Northern Ireland — Talks to resolve the last issues blocking the formal startup of the Northern Ireland peace plan adjourned inconclusively Thursday, but Prime Minister Tony Blair of Britain said he thought they had established a "satisfactory basis" for a final settlement.

In a studiously upbeat assessment of the outcome, Mr. Blair said that the parties would gather again in 12 days after what he called "a short pause for reflection to make sure we finalize things properly."

Mr. Blair and his Irish counterpart, Bertie Ahern, said that while the continuous round-the-clock talks had missed their deadline, they had produced a framework for clearing the main obstacle, the dispute over whether the Irish Republican Army must start taking its weapons out of commission as a condition for the members of its political wing, Sinn Féin, to take their seats in a new Northern Ireland Assembly cabinet.

The showdown over arms decommissioning had provoked gloomy predictions this week that the whole painstaking peace process, which has passed through many moments of menacing crises, might not survive this one.

A new declaration that emerged from Thursday's talks sought to meet the Ulster Unionist Party's demand for prior IRA disarmament with Sinn Féin's insistence that there can be no such condition. It said simply that "while there is no precondition to decommissioning, there is an obligation to decommission."

In statements outside Hillsborough Castle, the 18th-century mansion house in this County Down village that is the official residence of Britain's secretary for Northern Ireland, the two prime ministers tried to put a hopeful cast on what was a disappointing end to talks to meet a deadline Friday.

It was on Good Friday a year ago that the parties agreed to the peace settlement aimed at ending sectarian violence that has cost more than 3,200 lives in the past three decades and continually convulsed this British province throughout the century.

That carefully calibrated accord set up a number of new government bodies aimed at balancing the largely Protestant desire to keep Northern Ireland British with the widespread Roman Catholic wish to see it move closer to the Irish Republic.

Central to that agreement was the creation of a new Northern Ireland Assembly, which would exercise home-rule powers now in the British Parliament in London. That historic shift of authority, scheduled to occur Thursday, would have triggered the establishment of a 10-man executive, two of whose seats belong to Sinn Féin because of the count in the legislative elections in June.

Under the formula laid out in Thursday's declaration, guerrilla groups will have a month after the nomination of new cabinet members to start handing in guns "on a voluntary basis." This will be done in a cross-community ceremony described in the declaration as a "collective act of reconciliation." The moment would include memorial gestures honoring people from both of Northern Ireland's communities who have lost their lives in sectarian violence.

An existing international panel, headed by retired General John de Chastelain of Canada, would verify

compliance, and only then would nominations to the cabinet be approved by the assembly.

Mr. Blair said he expected people to object to the new arrangement. "You've heard them rattling the gates," he said, referring to militant Protestant demonstrators who have been loudly protesting the talks through the night at the entrance to Hillsborough Castle. "Those are the people who have never had anything useful to say about the future of Northern Ireland. They are the people of Northern Ireland's past."

The concern about decommissioning has long been a defining issue in the effort to negotiate a peace in Northern Ireland. One of the earliest challenges of George Mitchell, the former U.S. senator who chaired the talks that produced last year's settlement, was to get around an initial demand from then-Prime Minister John Major that there be disarmament before any talks.

He recalls in his book "Making Peace," published in the United States this week, that even the Royal Ulster Constabulary chief at the time told him that Sinn Féin did not have the power to obtain an agreement to disarm from its guerrilla force.

The talks only went forward when Mr. Mitchell put into place the strategy of "parallel decommissioning," making disarmament a matter for negotiations, not a precondition for them. While the tactic succeeded in removing the highly volatile issue of arms as an obstacle to an agreement, it did not succeed in keeping it from returning, as it has now, as the central focus of the warring parties.

The continued presence of arms, even if they continue to go unused in the cease-fire that is now in its 21st month, breeds the mistrust that had long kept the province's two communities at odds.



Prime Ministers Tony Blair, right, and Bertie Ahern announcing Thursday a 12-day adjournment in the Ulster talks at Hillsborough Castle.

BRIEFLY

Ukrainia Mass Killer Gets Death Trial for 10 in Venice Opera Fire

KIEV — The worst mass murderer in Ukraine's modern history was sentenced to death Thursday for slaughtering 52 men, women and children in a ruthless rampage that shook this former Soviet republic.

The death sentence against Anatoli Onoprienko, a 39-year-old former sailor, was the culmination of a court case that started in November. It took a judge nearly two days to complete the reading of the verdict describing Mr. Onoprienko's crimes, while the accused, wearing his trademark running shoes and an oversized jacket, waited impassively in an iron cage.

Mr. Onoprienko's accomplice in nine of the murders, 36-year-old Serhi Rogozin, was sentenced to 13 years in prison. It remains unclear whether Mr. Onoprienko will actually be executed because Ukraine has imposed a moratorium on capital punishment and pledged to eventually ban it. (AP)

Athens Party Office Rocketed

ATHENS — A rocket was launched against the Socialist Party headquarters in central Athens early Thursday but failed to explode, the police said.

They said the attack bore the hallmarks of November 17, a leftist urban guerrilla group.

The anti-tank rocket was launched from a parking lot behind the party's offices and found on a balcony. The remains of a rocket launcher attached to two timing devices were found in the parking lot.

November 17, which has killed 22 people since emerging in 1975, condemned the Socialist government's handling of the Kurdish rebel leader Abdullah Ocalan in a message sent to a Greek newspaper in March. (Reuters)

VENICE — Ten people, including Mayor Massimo Cacciari, will go on trial May 31 for their roles in a January 1996 blaze that destroyed Venice's La Fenice opera house, judicial sources said Thursday.

Two electricians who were working on the historic opera house shortly before the fire broke out are also among those who face charges that include negligence and arson, said the prosecutor, Felice Casson. Mr. Cacciari was named in his role as chairman of the board of the opera house. (AFP)

Dolly Gives Birth to 3 Lambs

LONDON — Dolly the sheep, the world's first animal cloned from an adult cell, has given birth to three lambs, the Roslin Institute where she was cloned announced Thursday.

Dolly had a lamb a year ago, named Bonnie and fathered by a Welsh mountain ram named David, said the laboratory in Edinburgh, adding that David also sired the three latest arrivals. "We are delighted the birth of Bonnie confirmed that despite Dolly's unusual origins, she is able to breed normally," a statement said. (AFP)

Bust of Picasso Muse Stolen

PARIS — A bust of Dora Maar, Pablo Picasso's muse in the late 1930s and early '40s, was stolen overnight Tuesday, the police said Thursday. Jean-Pierre Camard, an art expert, said the bust, displayed at the entrance of the Saint-Germain-des-Près square on the Left Bank, is valued at about 1 million francs (\$166,000). Miss Maar, whose real name was Theodora Markovitch, was the inspiration and mistress of Picasso from 1936 to 1943. She died in 1967. (AFP)

Russian Dispatch of Ships Reflects a Deep Anxiety

Raids on Serbs Stir Old Suspicions of the West

By David Hoffman
Washington Post Service

MOSCOW — Igor Ivanov, the Russian foreign minister, was asked in the lower house of Parliament last weekend whether Russia should send a few warships to the Mediterranean as a show of force against the NATO air attacks on Yugoslavia.

Mr. Ivanov quickly rejected the idea. "Just sending ships from Murmansk to Greece is not going to stop the aggression," he said.

But four days later, Defense Minister Igor Sergeev announced that Russia was indeed sending a warship to the Mediterranean as a show of force, and was preparing to send up to six more. "We must ensure the security of Russia," he declared.

The abrupt turnaround speaks volumes about the whirlwind of anti-Western feeling that the NATO attacks on Yugoslavia have stirred in Russia over the last week.

For Russia, the air strikes have been a moment of truth, revealing a vein of uneasiness and suspicion about the West, and especially the United States, which is stronger than at any time since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, according to analysts here.

The doubts are the cumulative result of different factors and perceived betrayals, from the promises that an expanded NATO would be purely defensive, to the U.S. decision to move ahead on an anti-ballistic missile system, to the Russian economic meltdown last August, which discredited liberal Western economic ideas here.

"It's a full blown crisis, the first real crisis since the end of the Cold War," in Russian-U.S. relations, said Sergei Rogov, director of the Institute for the Study of the U.S. and Canada. "It covers economic relations, foreign credits, debts, sanctions, arms control, START-2, the ABM treaty and, I am afraid, a few others. It's a bad crisis which could have very long-term implications for Russian-American relations, producing something between disengagement, cold peace, and maybe even something more serious."

In recent days, President Boris Yeltsin and Prime Minister Yevgeni Primakov have been buffeted by this tide of anti-American sentiment. They have responded with furious rhetoric, and selective withdrawal from military agreements, while also holding back against far more serious measures demanded by nationalists and Communists in Parliament.

The rhetoric has been white-hot, with Russians accusing the United States and NATO of "genocide" in Yugoslavia, of supporting Albanian separatists with "narco money," of seeking world *diktat*, and of using the Balkans as a proving ground for new, high-technology weapons.

By contrast, the Russian actions have been more restrained. Russia has canceled meetings with Western military experts, ousted NATO military attaches, rejected plans for sharing early warning missile launch data with the United States, and shelved, once again, parliamentary ratification of the strategic arms treaty. Russia has so far not announced plans to break the United Nations arms embargo and ship weapons to Yugoslavia, nor has there been a major disruption of U.S.-Russian cooperation on nuclear and chemical arms dismantlement. But some analysts worry that the sentiments are running so strong that the anti-Western reactions could spin out of control.

"I'm afraid that now it is serious, we see some sort of consensus in society which we haven't seen since 1991," said Alexander Pkayev, a nonproliferation specialist at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace Center here. "Then it was a broad anti-Communist consensus. Now, unfortunately we face a strong anti-NATO consensus, which could have a very dramatic impact on the overall U.S.-Russian relationship."

"In August, we saw the collapse of Yeltsin's market reform policy, and in March we saw the collapse of Yeltsin's foreign and security policy," he said.

Analysts have long predicted that economic hardship and humiliation could trigger a sharp regression away from market democracy in Russia.

But until recently, the economic woes of post-Soviet Russia seemed to create a benign isolationism.

Russians were too preoccupied with survival at home to express outrage about their weakening influence abroad.

But the Yugoslav crisis is proving that the anti-American sentiment is enormous, Mr. Rogov said.

"This is very bad," he said. "It is something that can be used against economic reform."

Decline of Economy in Russia May Help On Global Warming

By John H. Cushman Jr.
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — The United States and other industrial countries may find it easier and cheaper than they had expected to comply with a proposed treaty to combat global warming, according to the government's energy forecasting agency.

This would be due largely, it said in a report Wednesday, to a reduction of fuel consumption in Russia and neighboring countries since the fall of the Communist governments.

The agreement on global warming allows international trading of pollution credits as a way to control emissions of heat-trapping greenhouse gases, such as those that come from burning fossil fuels.

Therefore, more of the cuts may come from the former Soviet Union and less from the United States, the Energy Information Administration said in its annual long-range forecast.

That would mean that the United States, the world's leading source of greenhouse gases, could meet the treaty's targets without completely reversing its recent increases in emissions, which have grown along with energy use as the domestic economy boomed.

But there would still be a need for substantial reductions in emissions.

The agreement, negotiated in Kyoto in 1997 and signed last year by the Clinton administration, has not been ratified by the Senate, where it faces significant opposition from lawmakers who say it would be too costly and would cause disruptive cuts in energy use.

The Kyoto Protocol calls for the United States to cut its emissions of greenhouse gases within 10 to 15 years to a level 7 percent below 1990.

Emissions in 1997 were 10 percent above the 1990 level, and the energy agency has forecast by 2010 they will be 33 percent above the 1990 level.

78-Year-Old Convicted in Britain for War Crimes

By Sarah Lyall
New York Times Service

LONDON — For more than 50 years, Anthony Sawoniuk lived a quiet, near-anonymous existence in Britain, settling in south London and earning a modest living as a railroad cleaner and ticket collector. But he was a man harboring dark secrets from the distant past, and on Thursday they finally caught up with him.

After an emotionally fraught trial at the Old Bailey, the 78-year-old Mr. Sawoniuk, who suffers from diabetes, walks with a heavy limp, and is so deaf that the judge in the case had to shout to make himself heard, was convicted of two counts of murder in connection with the 1942 killings of 18 Jews in Domachevo, a former Polish town that is now part of Belarus.

He was sentenced twice to life in prison, once for each count. Mr. Sawoniuk, whose name had long been on a KGB list of possible war criminals who had escaped to Britain, was the first person in Britain to be tried under the country's 1991 War Crimes Act, and may well be the last.

The case against another defendant, 86-year-old Szymon Serafinowicz, was thrown out several years ago when it became clear he was suffering from Alzheimer's disease; other suspected war criminals have either died before the cases could proceed against them, or have not been tried at all because of infirmity.

In Mr. Sawoniuk's case, the charges stemmed from several incidents in the sleepy spa town of Domachevo in 1942, a year or so after the Nazis came in and herded the entire Jewish population into a makeshift ghetto.

Mr. Sawoniuk, a Domachevo native and only 20 at the time, was appointed police chief and charged with enforcing the new laws against Jews he had played with and gone to

school with. On Yom Kippur in September 1942, in one of the worst one-day massacres of the war, some 2,900 Jews were rounded up and executed.

Mr. Sawoniuk was not accused of participating in the massacre, but rather of taking part in a "search and kill" operation to hunt down survivors. There had originally been more than 4,000 Jews in Domachevo; by the time the Nazis were done, witnesses said, there were just 12 left.

The 11-person jury heard a number of elderly witnesses testify to the horrifying acts committed by the Nazis in general and by Mr. Sawoniuk in particular. Their testimony proved all the more compelling because, in a small community of about 5,000 people, most of them Jews, they had known the defendant personally and called him by his nickname, Andruska.

One witness, Aleksandr Beglay, 69, said that he was 13 when Mr. Sawoniuk herded him and a friend toward two Jewish men and a Jewish woman who were being guarded by the police near a pit in the ground.

"They were emaciated and had yellow patches on the back and front of their clothes," Mr. Beglay told the court, speaking through an interpreter.

Mr. Sawoniuk ordered them to strip, and when the woman refused to remove her underpants, he threatened to beat her with his truncheon, Mr. Beglay said. When she was naked, she was shot along with the others.

"Andruska was standing behind each one," the witness said. "They fell into the pit one after another, and he levered them into the pit by raising his knees."

Another witness, 75-year-old Fedor Zan, who had the seat behind Mr. Sawoniuk in school, said that he had seen the defendant shoot and kill 15 Jewish women in a forest, after forcing them to take their clothes off.

"He mowed them down with a machine gun," Mr. Zan said.

Testifying on his own behalf, Mr. Sawoniuk denied all the charges, testified that the Jews had not been so much as mistreated, and said the past was too murky for him to remember it properly.

"I am not a monster," he said, adding at one point that he couldn't recall whether, for example, the Jews had been forced to wear yellow patches on their clothes. "I can't remember," he said. "It was 57 years ago. I lost my memory a long time ago."

But, he said, he never killed anyone. "I never hate Jews," he told the court, in heavily-accented English. "They were my best friends. I was born next door to them. I grew up with them. I went to school with them. They accuse me. They lie."

Mr. Sawoniuk, who arrived in Scotland as a refugee in 1946, claiming to have spent the war fighting against the Nazis, managed for most

of his life to keep his past a secret, not even telling two of his wives what he had done.

Mr. Sawoniuk's lawyer, Martin Lee, said that his client was likely to appeal the conviction, adding that "retroactive criminal prosecution" was bad law. "Millions have been wasted by the government on prosecuting a nobody from south London, when hundreds of relatives of the survivors of the first and second world wars are desperate for recompense," he told the Press Association here.

But Jewish groups and groups who support war crimes legislation praised the verdict as a victory for humanity. "Mere passage of time does not make a guilty person less guilty," Rabbi Jonathan Romain, chairman of the Jewish Information and Media Service, said.

"It is not pleasant to have to take an elderly man to court, but it is even less pleasant to think of the murders of which he is accused going unpunished."

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ASIA/PACIFIC

Indonesians Say 11 Died In Religious Clash on Isle

JAKARTA — At least 11 people were shot dead or hacked to death in fighting between Christians and Muslims on Thursday in Indonesia's eastern Kai islands in the Moluccas, raising the death toll to 13 in two days, witnesses said.

Witnesses on the islands, 3,200 kilometers (2,000 miles) east of Jakarta, said some of the victims were shot by the police and soldiers trying to stop fighting between Christian and Muslim villagers over a plot of disputed land. Other victims were hacked to death, they said.

The police on the island of Ambon said no one was killed, but added they were still awaiting a report from the area.

Witnesses said two people were killed in fighting between the villagers Wednesday. The police said no one had died in that clash.

More than 200 people have been killed in fighting this year between Christians and Muslims, mostly on Ambon.

In Madiun, East Java, about 3,000 supporters of a presidential candidate, Megawati Sukarnoputri, rioted, wrecking scores of shops and houses, during a protest over the arrest of three colleagues. The police in Madiun, 560 kilometers east of Jakarta, fired warning shots to disperse a crowd, which was blocking a main street.

Violence has racked the Indonesian archipelago for the past year as religious, social and racial tensions boiled over amid the country's worst economic and political crisis in three decades.



General Wiranto, leader of the armed forces, at a ceremony Thursday marking the police split from the military.

Unrest is expected to increase as the country heads to a parliamentary election June 7.

Vote Is Crucial, Carter Says

A former U.S. president, Jimmy Carter, said Thursday that the June 7 election was probably the world's most important one this year and could be a major factor in Indonesia's economic reform program.

Mr. Carter said: "An unsuccessful election would be a devastating blow to the economic prosperity of this country. If the election is successful this will be

major factor in foreign investment coming back in to Indonesia." He described the vote as "an election process that perhaps is the most important in the world during this year." But he conceded the poll would not be totally smooth.

"You can expect some problems," Mr. Carter added. "There will certainly be some confusion."

Mr. Carter, who said he would be an election observer, was visiting Indonesia to check the situation in the run-up to the vote, which will be the country's first truly democratic one in more than 40 years. He said Indonesia's leaders

wanted the Carter Center, a philanthropic institution, to observe the vote.

Earlier on Thursday he met President B.J. Habibie and the armed forces commander, General Wiranto, in Jakarta and he was scheduled to meet with other leading political figures.

He said it was unlikely that unrest would force the cancellation of the election and called the vote a major factor in Indonesia's economic reform process.

In recent years, Mr. Carter has intervened in a number of international disputes, most notably involving North Korea and Haiti.

Angry With U.S., Beijing Debates Suspending Visit

Strains Over NATO Bombing and Human Rights

By Erik Eckholm
New York Times Staff Writer

BEIJING — Angered by the bombing in Yugoslavia as well as by renewed attacks on China's human-rights policies, senior Chinese officials are debating whether Prime Minister Zhu Rongji should postpone his visit to the United States, scheduled to begin Tuesday, according to a Chinese source.

Communist Party leaders have not yet made a decision, according to the source, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Both the Chinese government and the Clinton administration have expressed hopes that the visit by Mr. Zhu could help repair relations between the two countries. Postponement now may add to the deep strains caused by disputes over trade, proposals for Asian missile defenses and charges of nuclear espionage as well as the NATO bombing and human rights.

Speculation about Mr. Zhu's visit was stirred Thursday at a regularly scheduled Foreign Ministry press briefing when a spokesman, Sun Yuxi, surprisingly refused to confirm the dates of the supposedly imminent trip.

While the American government has already announced that Mr. Zhu is visiting several cities, including Washington, from April 6 to 14, the Chinese government has officially announced only that the trip would be in April.

Pressed by reporters, the Foreign Ministry spokesman, Mr. Sun, would say only that he had nothing to add to earlier statements.

Jin Canrong, an expert on the United States at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, told The Associated Press on Thursday that discussions about the trip's timing were taking place at the highest levels.

Alarmed by Mr. Sun's reticence at the press conference, officials of the U.S. Embassy sent a cable to Washington reporting rumors of a possible postponement, according to an official in Washington.

An embassy spokesman, Bill Palmer, said this evening that the United States assumed the trip was still on as scheduled.

Several issues have converged to give the Chinese second thoughts.

Chinese officials had hoped to see a breakthrough by now over China's entry into the World Trade Organization. But it became clear this week, after a period of intense negotiations, that China had not yet satisfied American demands for the opening of its markets.

Angering China, the Clinton administration recently announced it will sponsor a resolution condemning China's human rights record at a United Nations meeting in Geneva this month. The administration had been reluctant to put forth such a resolution, which will almost certainly fail to pass, but Congress demanded it.

China has reacted with special fury to the NATO bombing in Yugoslavia, which it portrays as an illegal act of intervention inside a sovereign state.

Not only did NATO countries bypass the UN Security Council, where China holds a veto, but in the Chinese view the action also sets a dangerous precedent. Officials fear it could be used to justify

future foreign interventions in its own regions of potential strife such as Tibet and the Muslim province of Xinjiang, or in Taiwan, which it considers a renegade province.

China gave major publicity to the dramatic protest by Prime Minister Yevgeny Primakov of Russia, who turned his plane around while en route to Washington when he first heard about the NATO attack.

Some Chinese have argued that it would be humiliating for Mr. Zhu to visit the United States while the bombing continues, especially in the absence of a trade deal. Xiong Zhiyong, Dean of the Foreign Affairs College, said: "Some people are asking, what is the purpose of going now?"

The state-controlled media have painted an extremely one-sided picture of the conflict in Kosovo, virtually ignoring charges of Serbian attacks on ethnic Albanian residents while broadcasting scenes casting the Serbs in a heroic light.

U.S. Denounces China to UN

The United States called on the UN human rights forum Thursday to join it in condemning China and Cuba for repressing basic political and religious freedoms, Reuters reported from Geneva.

Harold Hongju Koh, assistant U.S. secretary of state for democracy, human rights and labor, also denounced violations in Iraq, Iran, Sierra Leone, Sudan and the former Yugoslavia.

In his speech to the UN Commission on Human Rights, the Korean-American lawyer also defended the U.S. human rights record, which has been under fire during the annual session.

The 53-member state body is holding its six-week meeting in Geneva through April 30 to examine abuses worldwide.

Mr. Koh reiterated that the U.S. delegation would introduce a resolution on China, saying authorities had initiated a crackdown on political opposition.

"Dozens of political activists have been detained for peaceful political activities, and three leaders of the China Democracy Party have been given harsh sentences in closed trials that clearly violated due process," Mr. Koh said.

"The Chinese government also has attempted to restrict religious practice to officially sanctioned organizations and registered places of worship and detained Chinese citizens because of the peaceful expression of their political or religious beliefs," he added.

Mr. Koh said Tibet continued to suffer repressive social and political controls which undermined its unique cultural, religious and linguistic heritage.

"There are credible reports of the imprisonment and torture of monks and nuns, the death of prisoners, and the closure of monasteries," he said.

On Tibet's exiled spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, who advocates autonomy for the homeland he fled in 1959, Mr. Koh said: "The government has yet to engage in substantive dialogue with the Dalai Lama, and despite repeated international expressions of concern about the welfare of the boy designated as the Panchen Lama, the Chinese government continues to refuse access to him by international observers."

Verdict on Malaysian Ex-Minister Is Set for April 14



Gurbachan Singh, right, a defense lawyer, with a journalist Thursday.

KUALA LUMPUR — The trial of former Finance Minister Anwar Ibrahim ended Thursday after five months of legal battle, and Judge Augustine Paul of the High Court said he would pronounce his verdict on April 14.

Unbowed after six months in detention, Mr. Anwar stood by his argument that he was dismissed and arrested as part of a plot by Prime Minister Mahathir bin Mohamad's associates to prevent him from becoming prime minister and exposing corruption and cronyism.

"I still maintain there is a political conspiracy involving Dr. Mahathir and his close associates to politically assassinate me," Mr. Anwar told reporters in the High Court after the trial ended on its 77th day. It was Malaysia's longest criminal trial.

He then hugged his eldest daughter, Nurul Izzah, 19, as family members and friends watched from the gallery.

Mr. Augustine said on Thursday he would not be able to rule by April 6, the date he originally set for the verdict. "It's simply impossible," he said.

As Malaysia has no jury system, Mr. Augustine alone will rule on the four corruption charges at issue. The charges allege that Mr. Anwar abused his power

in 1997 by directing police to obtain retractions from two people who had accused him of sex crimes.

Each of the corruption counts carries a maximum penalty of 14 years in jail and a 20,000 ringgit (\$5,000) fine.

Mr. Anwar, 51, has said he expects to be sentenced to between two and four years in jail.

"I'm realistic enough to accept the eventualities," Mr. Anwar said Thursday. He could appeal if convicted.

"My concern has already been expressed in the application to disqualify the judge," he said, "which was dismissed without going into the merit of the application, notwithstanding the verdict."

Mr. Augustine rejected Mr. Anwar's request last week that the judge, who joined the High Court bench last year, disqualify himself from the case on the ground he was partial.

Both the defense and prosecution closed their cases on Thursday after five months of legal arguments in the trial, which has divided Malaysia and fanned political differences ahead of elections due by April 2000.

Mr. Mahathir dismissed Mr. Anwar in September after tension between the two reached the breaking point. Mr. Anwar was arrested a few weeks later.

Japan's Elephants Just Not in the Mood

By Mary Jordan
Washington Post Staff Writer

TOKYO — Micky, bilingual and thoughtful, shed 500 kilograms (1,100 pounds) to win over Norame, the lone elephant stud in an animal kingdom north of Tokyo. But that romantic effort flopped, as have almost all efforts at breeding Asian elephants in Japan.

Male elephants, it seems, have lost their sexual desire.

Hidemasa Hori, the record keeper at the Ueno Zoo in Tokyo, said: "Elephants' sex drive has not been studied enough, so it is difficult to say for sure why this problem is occurring. But chemistry between male and female elephants counts more than you would imagine."

Japanese zoo keepers report all kinds of unrequited love among elephants. For instance, when Micky took a fancy to Norame, his eyes were on an upstart named Ministar.

As a result of such romantic difficulties, no one can remember when, if ever, an Asian elephant was born in Japan. "And our records go back more than 100 years," Mr. Hori said.

As a result, Japanese zoos are going to considerable cost and distance to find elephants that like each other enough to produce calves. Norame was shipped in from Thailand for a one-year stay at a cost of more than \$80,000.

Because Japan has a shortage of open spaces for elephants, any one location usually has only one male and a few females. This meager choice of partners appears to be a primary reason so many elephants choose to remain celibate.

Sayuri Sakamoto, the head of the Ichihara Elephant Kingdom in Chiba, north of Tokyo, said: "Maybe it's something physical about the opposite sex, that attracts them, or maybe it's the personality — if the other elephant is very kind — I don't know."

What she does know, she said, is that the elusiveness of the right "chemistry" between male and female elephants is "the main source of the fertility problem."

Perhaps, too, she said, part of the reason for the declining birth rate is environmental pollution and the lack of a more natural wild habitat. "I have come to believe that elephants in zoos feel there is no point in having a child in this

fenced-in world," she said. This week the Ueno Zoo will begin renovating and enlarging the elephant area to make it more hospitable for romance.

It is not as if elephant reproduction was ever easy. Elephants are ready for mating only three or four times a year, and getting the male's cycle to coincide with the female's is not always simple. Even if conception occurs, the gestation period is two years.

Miss Sakamoto said she remains hopeful that Micky and Norame will hit it off and that the expensive bilateral matchmaking effort will work. Norame must return to Thailand this summer.

Because Asian male elephants can be aggressive and therefore dangerous to handlers, Japanese zoos favor females. The country has only 10 male Asian elephants and 60 females. That is why males are being brought in from other Asian countries for courtship.

Perhaps the most popular bachelor here is Menam, who lives in Tokyo. Three females from the suburbs recently visited him, all hoping to conceive. Sorry.

"He was a little overwhelmed," Mr. Hori said.

OBUCHI: The Japanese Warm to the Prime Minister's Image

Continued from Page 1

to get them to spend money.

There are mixed signs about whether all this has halted Japan's economic slide, and there is still vigorous debate about whether the sparkle ahead in the tunnel is sunlight or an oncoming locomotive. Mr. Obuchi has made no serious moves to restructure the economy in basic ways, and critics say that restructuring is the only way to revive Japan's fortunes in the long run.

Mr. Obuchi — by all accounts an unusually nice and unpretentious man in Japanese politics — cheerfully pokes fun at his lack of star quality, portraying himself as short on talent but long on determination.

"I'm a mix of three things: good luck, dullness and perseverance," Mr. Obuchi told the people of his hometown recently in a celebration of his achievements. "And I'm going to keep on plugging along with those same characteristics."

Former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone attended the celebration and offered higher praise. Referring to his own five-year term as prime minister, unusually long for a Japanese leader, Mr. Nakasone told Mr. Obuchi and the crowd: "Five years is not enough. You should aim for six years."

Six years in office may seem like a lifetime in the politics of Japan, but as long as Mr. Obuchi may manage to stay in the prime minister's residence at least for the rest of this year, he faces re-election as leader within the governing Liberal Democratic Party in September, but as long as the economy is holding its own, he is expected to be re-elected without difficulty.

Elections for the lower house of Parliament must be held by next year, however, and the party might dump Mr. Obuchi in hopes of finding a more charismatic standard-bearer to lead it before the voters.

"No Liberal Democrat member of the

Lower House wants to have a general election under Obuchi," said Takao Toshikawa, editor of a political newsletter in Tokyo. "They don't trust Obuchi to be their leader through a general election."

But on the other hand, as Mr. Toshikawa noted, no other Liberal Democrat would clearly do better with the voters. And the opposition Democratic Party is stumbling anew each week and now is not expected to evict the Liberal Democrats from power.

One area where Mr. Obuchi may leave a mark is in foreign affairs and security policy, for he seems more willing to exercise force and nurture military power than his predecessors.

Japan has moved to develop reconnaissance satellites and to join an American-led missile-defense system, and in late March, Mr. Obuchi unhesitatingly ordered warships to pursue two foreign ships that had intruded into Japanese waters, apparently from North Korea.

37 Lost as Freighters From Korea Collide

COLOMBO — A North Korean freighter sank in international waters off Sri Lanka after colliding with a South Korean vessel, and 37 crew members were missing, Sri Lankan and Korean officials said Thursday.

In Seoul, the Hyundai shipping company said its 61,150-ton container ship, the Duke, had collided in international waters with the Manpoho, a 7,000-ton-class cement carrier from North Korea. Sri Lanka rescue tugs were dispatched to the area. (AP)

Mercury Waste to Go To Taiwan for Tests

PHNOM PENH — Nearly 3,000 tons of sludge containing mercury that was dumped in Cambodia will be sent back to Taiwan rather than shipped to the United States, a disposal company said Thursday.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency rescinded approval Tuesday of the waste's importation.

The California company, Safety-Kleen Corp., said the waste, produced by Formosa Plastics Corp., was "more complex than initially believed." (AP)

New India Tremor

GWALIAR, India — Another tremor toppled buildings in the earthquake-stricken mountains of northern India early Thursday, killing one person, as relief officials struggled to bring help to villages flattened on Monday.

The tremor, measuring 4.8 on the Richter scale, brought down the stone house of Ravi Lal, 55, in the village of Pipakoti and killed him. Press Trust of India reported. (AP)

For the Record

A Hong Kong court ordered the release of 100 Chinese immigrants



A girl sitting at her damaged house in the village of Chamoli, northern India, which was hit by an earthquake that killed about 110.

Thursday and ruled that they could stay in the territory until a decision was made on an appeal by 17 others over a residency law. (Reuters)

found the pilot, Yuan Bin, guilty of endangering air safety, rather than air piracy, a far more serious charge that can carry a life sentence. (Reuters)

A Taiwan court handed down a one-year prison term Thursday to a Chinese pilot who diverted his Air China jetliner across the Taiwan Strait to Taiwan. The Taoyuan district court

Three more people have died of a pig-borne virus, raising to 79 the death toll in an epidemic that has virtually destroyed Malaysia's hog industry, the Bernama agency said Thursday. (AP)

EDITORIALS/OPINION

Herald INTERNATIONAL Tribune

PUBLISHED WITH THE NEW YORK TIMES AND THE WASHINGTON POST

A Refugee Emergency

While NATO warplanes attack Serbia, the alliance must also tend to the needs of a tidal wave of refugees fleeing Serbian atrocities in Kosovo. In recent days nearly 150,000 Kosovars have arrived in Albania, Montenegro and Macedonia, three of Europe's poorest republics. Clinton administration officials fear that the number could grow to a million in the days ahead. These refugees need food, shelter and medicine. The lands receiving them need help as well, lest the burden of caring for so many foreigners tear apart their own fragile societies.

Wednesday's announcement by the Clinton administration of \$50 million in new assistance for Kosovo refugees is a good start to meeting American obligations. Britain, France, Italy and Germany have also announced useful relief efforts. But the measures announced thus far represent only a down payment on what will eventually be required.

Refugees have been fleeing Kosovo since Serbia began its terror campaign against the local Albanian population last year. Their numbers increased as Slobodan Milosevic escalated the violence in recent months. Since NATO began bombing last week, Serbian atrocities have multiplied and the exodus has increased. One out of three

Kosovo Albanians have been chased from their homes, and most of these 600,000 displaced people are headed for the nearest border. Nearly 90,000 have reached Albania in the last week and about 25,000 each have arrived in Macedonia and Montenegro.

In all three receiving republics, the most urgent needs are tents and blankets to keep the refugees warm and dry, and medical staff and sanitary water supplies to prevent epidemics. Food must be transported from places where it is currently stockpiled, like Italy, to the areas where refugees are concentrated. NATO can help in this task.

Washington will channel half of its new aid through the Pentagon and half through relief groups. It is also rightly seeking to help the regions receiving the refugees. The influx must not destabilize Montenegro, which has been particularly generous. Although part of Yugoslavia, it has distanced itself from Mr. Milosevic.

The refugee problem has grown faster than anyone anticipated because few outsiders expected Mr. Milosevic to attempt the wholesale removal of Kosovo's Albanian population. NATO must now help cope with the consequences of his inhumane behavior.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES

Bailing Out Moscow

The International Monetary Fund faces not one but two difficult questions as it considers again its Russian problem. One is whether to lend more billions to the Russian government. If the answer is "yes," then the IMF must decide whether to lend only enough to allow Russia to repay the IMF loans coming due this year, or, as Russia would like, be considerably more generous.

The unpleasant truth is that Russia has not taken the necessary steps to promote its own prosperity; its economic policy cannot ensure good use of IMF funds.

Some nations, from tiny Estonia to sizable Poland, resolutely implemented economic reforms to make a rapid transition to a free market. They still have a long way to go to recover the years lost to communism, but already their reforms have promoted economic growth and political stability. Russia, by contrast, has yet to muster the political will or consensus to push reforms through. It is "stuck halfway" between communism and capitalism, as President Boris Yeltsin acknowledged in a speech on Tuesday, with a "freakish model... a hybrid." This hybrid has produced corruption, disillusion and economic decline.

Given that failure, some supporters in America and in Russia of extending more loans make a political case. Russia is too important to isolate, they say, and, with its nuclear weapons and scientists, too dangerous to antagonize. These factors have inclined the IMF to lend to Russia before, and they could play a role again. After all, the IMF is controlled ultimately by politicians from the wealthy countries, with the United States in the lead.

Other Comment

The Bullets of Bias

In a nation that the U.S. Supreme Court believes has achieved colorblindness, the murder indictments issued on Wednesday against four white police officers in New York tell a very different story. Race bias has been treated as a theoretical issue by the justices, but it is a daily, street-level torment for millions of Americans. At its worst, it is perpetrated not only by neighbors but also by government agents, especially those trained and armed to protect the citizenry.

On Feb. 4, four plainclothes officers in search of a rapist encountered Amadou Diallo, 22, in front of his Bronx home. Sensing, they said later, that Mr. Diallo might be reaching for a weapon, the cops blew him away. Forty-one shots were fired; 19 hit their target. Mr. Diallo, a West African immigrant, had no gun. Gross police overreaction is certainly involved here, and some may see no need to stress the racial element.

It is hard to imagine that this slaughter would have taken place if Mr. Diallo had been white. And it is impossible to imagine that the response of Mayor Rudolph Giuliani and

Police Commissioner Howard Safir would have been so callous and slow. The effects of continuing race bias in the United States are evident in stacks of statistics relating to education, income, health and nearly every aspect of life. But the most dramatic and worrisome examples are those in which racist actions are carried out by law enforcement personnel — the very people designated to stop them. The Diallo case is extreme, but it is not alone. Anyone who thinks it is truly blind.

—The Boston Globe

The conflict between police and large segments of the community in New York City is worsening, not easing. Mayor Rudolph Giuliani and Police Commissioner Howard Safir have made the unsettling and potentially very divisive suggestion that a recent slight increase in homicides may somehow be linked to the protests against police misconduct.

On Tuesday, hundreds of angry cops, nearly all of them white, chanted "No justice, no police" as they marched in the Bronx in support of the four officers who shot Amadou Diallo.

—Bob Herbert, commenting in The New York Times

Serbia Won't Move, So Full Speed Ahead for NATO

By Flora Lewis

BUDAPEST — Bombing air defenses obviously has not changed Slobodan Milosevic's mind about easing off on Kosovo. If anything, it has made him hurry to get rid of the Kosovars so that if eventually he has to compromise on the land, the people will be gone.

His offer to Prime Minister Yevgeni Primakov, which the Russians said meant that he was ready for "constructive dialogue," in effect simply demanded that NATO quit and go home. Mr. Milosevic promised only to withdraw some of his troops in return, a promise that he made and broke before.

It is only in accelerating his effort at scorched earth that the bombing has hastened the Kosovars' misery. The plans were all drawn up.

There never was much reason to suppose that a high-tech campaign against fixed military targets would break the Kosovo deadlock. The reason for starting the attack was not so much that it was expected to bring Mr. Milosevic to accept NATO's terms, as that the situation had been allowed to deteriorate so badly that NATO had to do something.

The "something" chosen was considered the least undesirable of assorted options including send troops to fight the Serbs, recognize Kosovo independence and provide arms. Give up. There were different intensities of reaction among the allies, but no one of them wanted to declare that what was happening was

none of NATO's business and leave Mr. Milosevic to his own devices.

As U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott says, "This is barbarism in our own time, in the heart of Europe, on the eve of the 21st century." That is the crux of the matter. There is no dispute about whether it should be allowed to continue. The problem is how to stop it at a price that the Euro-Atlantic governments and public opinion are prepared to pay.

Even as his prime minister tried once more for a diplomatic miracle, President Boris Yeltsin declared that "Russia will not allow itself to be drawn into a military conflict" because of Serbia.

He appealed for "responsible actions" and said, "More and more political leaders understand that in such situations brute force does not achieve anything." Those words could as well have been addressed to Mr. Milosevic as to NATO, a reminder in effect that Russia tried Serbian-style suppression in Chechnya and it didn't work.

The intervention in Kosovo has been extremely cautious. It started with President George Bush drawing "a red line" in the degree of Serbian violence. As was easy to foresee, Belgrade shifted attention to Kosovo after the situations in Croatia and then Bosnia were settled,

at least for now. A small UN force was sent to Macedonia to deter Serbia on that border. But tensions grew inside Kosovo as the patient pacifism of its courageous leader Ibrahim Rugova got nowhere.

A variety of angry men, convinced that only armed resistance would help, more or less coalesced in the Kosovo Liberation Army, and Belgrade set out not only to crush it but to clear away its natural supporters. Serbia was reacting to Mao's thesis that rebels are fish in the protective waters of the masses by draining away the population itself.

The powers, including Russia, dithered and argued for months about what to do, finally agreeing on dispatch of 1,400 unarmed observers from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

France warned that there could be a repeat of the trap that took UN soldiers hostage in Bosnia. So the next weird invention was a large NATO "extraction" force in neighboring Macedonia to rescue the OSCE people if they were attacked. It was a nutty scheme. I called them the French dentists. Obviously, the observers had to be sent out when the bombing was ordered, but the extraction force can't be sent in because that would be a NATO ground attack.

Given all this, wasn't it wrong to start bombing? I say "no." Late is better than never. Doing nothing would have been the worst solution.

Now the danger is trying to go too fast, succumbing to the TV-arcade game idea of war as pow-boom-zap and finished, forgetting that even in the Gulf War, there were four months of bombing before the troops went in.

The Kosovo problem has been festering for a long time. Whatever happens, it won't go away soon.

If independence is recognized, there will have to be an international protective force for the fragile new state. If, as now seems impossible, the autonomy plan is carried out, military guarantees will be needed. No solution imagining some kind of quick fix has any claim to reality.

There may have to be a serious escalation in fighting, or maybe not. It depends almost entirely on Mr. Milosevic. But to decide that on the basis of frustration because the bombing campaign has not produced results so far would gravely compound the many errors of strategy already made. Having started, the attack must continue to the point where what is left of the terrified Kosovo population feels it is getting some NATO protection.

There was never going to be an easy way out, but to start and then try to pass the buck to the Kosovars, or back away, would be disaster. The humanitarian challenges have dramatically increased in recent days. They must be met.

Flora Lewis

NATO Has to Prevail, Introducing Ground Troops if Necessary

By Henry A. Kissinger

NEW YORK — The war in Kosovo is the product of a conflict going back over centuries. It takes place at the dividing line between the Ottoman and Austrian empires, between Islam and Christianity, and between Serbian and Albanian nationalism.

The ethnic groups have lived together peacefully only when that coexistence was imposed, as under foreign empires or the Tito dictatorship. President Bill Clinton has asserted that, after a brief period of NATO occupation, the ethnic groups will reconcile. There is no realistic basis for that assumption.

When American forces are engaged in combat, victory is the only exit strategy. And that requires a definition of issues that can survive scrutiny.

The administration, in pursuit of symbols that resonate with the public, has put forward three categories of argument. The most convincing is that suffering in Kosovo is so offensive to our moral sensibilities that we will use force to end it even absent traditional considerations of national interest.

But since this leaves open the question of why we do not intervene in East Africa, Sri Lanka, Kurdistan, Kashmir and Afghanistan, to name just a few of the places where infinitely more casualties have been incurred than in Kosovo, the president has invoked historical analogies or current threats that are extremely dubious.

Slobodan Milosevic is not Hitler but a Balkan thug, and the crisis in Kosovo has no analogy to the events preceding World War I.

Neither Mr. Milosevic nor any other Balkan leader is in a position to threaten the global equilibrium. Unlike Bosnia, Kosovo is a war for territory considered by the Serbs as a national shrine. This is why there have been few, if any, signs of opposition in Belgrade to Mr. Milosevic's Kosovo policy.

World War I started in the Balkans not as a result of ethnic conflicts but for precisely the opposite reason: because outside powers intervened in a local conflict. The assassination of the crown prince of Austria by a Serbian nationalist led to a world war because

Russia backed Serbia and France backed Russia, while Germany supported Austria.

It is absurd to allege that the economic well-being of the European Union, with a GNP exceeding America's, depends on the outcome in Kosovo.

The cohesion of NATO is threatened primarily because it was staked on the unsustainable Rambouillet agreement. I respect the humanitarian motive for intervention, but this does not absolve the democracies from the necessity of coming up with a sustainable solution.

NATO cannot survive if it now abandons the campaign without achieving its objective of ending the massacres. The terms for ending the air war should be: an immediate ceasefire; the withdrawal of Serbian

forces introduced after the beginning of the negotiations at Rambouillet; and the immediate opening of negotiations over autonomy for Kosovo.

These negotiations are likely to be prolonged and bitter. But, at their end, Kosovo independence in some form is inevitable.

If a ceasefire on such terms is rejected by Mr. Milosevic, there will be no alternative to continuing and intensifying the war. If necessary introducing NATO combat ground forces — a solution which I have heretofore passionately rejected but which will have to be considered to maintain NATO credibility.

This article has been adapted from a longer commentary in Newsweek.

Allied Ground Troops, Embittered Serbs, Cool Realism

Take Steps to Win

WASHINGTON — We are losing the war in Kosovo. Slobodan Milosevic and his Serbian armed forces are killing Kosovar political leaders, expelling Kosovars from their homes and causing a massive flow of refugees into countries with few resources to care for them. The United States and NATO have the capacity to reverse this situation. But it will require presidential leadership and a commitment to taking the hard steps necessary to win.

White House briefings state each day that no ground forces are contemplated. The agreement that we pressured the Kosovars to sign at Rambouillet was of doubtful wisdom, but they signed it and relied upon NATO and the United States to

protect their ability to negotiate their future in peace and safety.

By ruling out ground troops, the administration gives a defiant Serbia an open opportunity to conduct ethnic cleansing.

President Clinton should have told Mr. Milosevic that if he attacked Kosovo, we would terminate his regime in Serbia. Now NATO targets should include the major governmental buildings in Belgrade. Every military target that can be identified must be hit and hit again.

Immediately, conspicuous planning for the use of NATO ground troops must commence in the numbers required to blunt the Serbian offensive, stabilize Kosovo and, if necessary, repel whatever elements of the Serbian armed forces remain.

President Milosevic should be indicted as a war criminal.

Serbs Rally

BELGRADE — Just how far are NATO members prepared to go? What happens if the war spreads? The questions crowded my mind as I sat in a Belgrade prison on the first day of the NATO attack, detained for eight hours when the government shut down my radio station. Whiling away the time in the cell I shared with a murder suspect, I asked myself what the West's aim was for "the morning after."

My friends in the West keep asking me why there is no rebellion here. Where are the people who poured onto the streets every day for three months in 1996 to demand democracy and human rights? Zoran Djindjic, the opposition mayor of Nis, answered that the other day: "Twenty minutes ago my city was bombed. The people who live here are the same people who voted for democracy in 1996, the same people who protested for a hundred days after the authorities tried to deny them their victory in the elections."

"They voted for the same democracy that exists in Europe and the United States. Today my city was bombed by the democratic states of the U.S.A., Britain, France, Germany and Canada! Is there any sense in this?"

Most of these people feel betrayed by the countries that were their models. They are now compelled to take up arms and join sons already serving in the army. With the bombs falling all around them, nobody can convince them that this is only an attack on their government and not their country.

NATO's bombs have blasted the germinating seeds of democracy out of the soil of Kosovo, Serbia and Montenegro and ensured that they will not sprout again for a very long time.

—Veran Matić, editor in chief of the independent station Radio B92, writing in The New York Times

Beware Idealism

WASHINGTON — Neither the history nor the emotions of the Balkans lend themselves to an American ideal of a multiethnic society or multinationalism.

The Serbs in Bosnia can join with Serbia. The Croats could join with Croatia. The rump Bosnian state should enjoy Western support and protection. Slobodan Milosevic would have something to show the Serbian population as a limited step toward Greater Serbia — and it would compensate in part for the loss of part of Kosovo, which might go to Albania.

In reaching this outcome, Russia would have a critical role to play.

Unless it coincides with the national interest, moral indignation is rarely a sound guide to policy. We should be guided less by indignation and more by foresight.

—James K. Schlesinger, a former secretary of defense and CIA director, commenting in The Washington Post

Autonomy Overtaken by Atrocity

By William Safire

WASHINGTON — The military objective was clear: to "degrade" Yugoslavia's ability to drive the ethnic Albanians out of its province of Kosovo. Some degradation.

After a week of Slobodan Milosevic's ethnic cleansing, a third of the unwanted population had been driven out, many civilians murdered, the Kosovo Liberation Army decimated. Slow-moving NATO's bluff was called, and fast-moving Yugoslavia is winning the war.

Why? One reason is that Bill Clinton's poll-following and wholly unnecessary promise of no use of ground troops emboldened the Yugoslav dictator. Another is that the cautiously phased air campaign concentrated on Yugoslav air defenses, thereby protecting NATO pilots, rather than combining that with an attack on Serbian field forces as they swiftly carried out their savage sweep.

NATO will now punish Yugoslavia by bombing government buildings in Belgrade. An equivalent discomfort — an evacuation of the Pentagon — would not stop America's ability to wage war. Pinpoint bombing of Belgrade headquarters will only solidify Serbian patriotic support for Mr. Milosevic.

NATO will also take more risks flying lower over Kosovo. That may take out 400 tanks and heavy artillery pieces now shelling towns, but it will not stop the panicked exodus driven by men with rifles.

That leaves the West on a classic Vietnam spot: Yugoslavia, the subpower, is fighting to win, while NATO, the superpower, is painfully escalating as it yearns to settle.

To end brutal internal aggression against innocents, we have to break that pattern.

On the military front, beyond tactical air attacks, NATO bombers should darken Belgrade. The removal of electricity would disrupt military communications and remind triumphant Yugoslav leaders of the greater human hardship being inflicted by their orders on Kosovars.

Then target industrial plants around Belgrade and Nis, and sink all Yugoslav naval vessels. Ground troops? The prospect of body bags is anathema to Bill Clinton despite his bluster about genocide. Without his willingness to ask Congress to put troops where his mouth is, Europeans and even Turks will not take on the nation that bloodily battled Hitler and stood off Stalin.

What can be done is to mass a NATO ground force near Albania and Macedonia borders, protecting and training a KLA guerrilla force. The presence of five armored divisions, prepared for action under air supremacy, would radically change the local power equation.

Economic pain can be inflicted by the seizure of Yugoslav assets around the world to subsidize the upkeep of refugees.

Psychological war can be waged by shortwave, leaflet and even the Internet. To Yugoslavs now getting only Milosevic propaganda. Just as fissures will develop within the NATO alliance, political splits in the initial Serbian solidarity should be exploited.

On the diplomatic front, for-

get the Russians. To them, keeping Kosovo under Serbian rule means keeping Chechnya under Russian rule. Yevgeni Primakov's foreign minister, Igor Ivanov, said this week that NATO officials, not Yugoslav killers, should be tried as war criminals for their "undisguised genocide." The long-term Russian interest is to diminish NATO; Mr. Primakov cannot be its intermediary.

The former goal of an autonomous Kosovo under Serbian sovereignty has been overtaken by atrocity. Take the mushy offer made at Rambouillet off the table. The allies should now stand for a separate Kosovo and be willing to consider a partition plan that lets Serbia keep revered historic sites but joins most of the area long populated by Albanians to Albania.

After his victorious first week, Mr. Milosevic will not hear of it. He sees what has not happened to Saddam Hussein's Iraq and logically assumes that nothing serious will happen to his Yugoslavia.

We have not yet reached the end of the beginning. After sustained strategic and tactical bombing, after an economic blockade and asset seizure, after the buildup of troops on his borders that protects the seekers of vengeance, and might just roll tanks forward to establish fortified havens for innocents — after all that, as crowds now cheering in Belgrade start to grumble about shortages and isolation, the conqueror of unnamed Kosovo might be more inclined to trade a little land for peace with Europe.

The New York Times

IN OUR PAGES: 100, 75 AND 50 YEARS AGO

1899: Russian Press

PARIS — Novosti: "The Russian government cannot bring the Balkan States into closer touch with Russia unless our commercial community helps it. Only a few days ago the Bulgarian Government negotiated a loan in Vienna. Our mercantile houses have only begun to do business with Balkan countries of late, hence it is not surprising that Russia is not in the same position there as Austria."

1924: Boxing Star

NEW YORK — Jack Dempsey, heavy-weight boxing champion of the world, is going to do far more moving-picture work in the next year or two than he will do in the ring during the remainder of his fighting career. He will also get more money out of the screen than he can expect to get out of the ring. The film contract precludes acceptance of any fight proposition. When Kearns declined a bid for a battle between his champion and Harry Wills, the manager declared that he would sign a movie contract that would prevent Dempsey from defending his title before next September.

1949: Chinese Clashes

NANKING — Garrison headquarters here announced that 144 persons were injured in clashes between soldiers and university students. The clashes resulted from anti-government demonstrations following the departure of the government peace delegation to negotiate with the Communists. All of the seriously injured were students. In South China, leaders announced that Acting President Li Tsung-jen must make peace terms acceptable to them as well as the Communists, or they will not turn over South China to the Communists.

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OPINION/LETTERS

The Shortfalls of Globalization

PARIS — The trade partners of the United States, that evangelist of unfettered trade, are finding a new need for fetters, but it is too late.

In late March, Washington announced a plan to apply punitive tariffs on a list of European Union exports, this in retaliation for the unwillingness of the Europeans to accept exports of U.S. hormone-fed beef. The tariffs are expected to add 100 percent to the sale price of nearly \$1 billion worth of European exports.

Similar punitive tariffs already are pending against many European luxury and specialty

By William Pfaff

exports of U.S. livestock fed with the types of antibiotics also given to humans. While the antibiotics ward off disease in poultry and cattle, the objection is that the humans who eat the food will also ingest the antibiotics and may develop resistance to those antibiotics which they may need later for medical reasons.

Genetically modified food has recently produced an enormous controversy in Britain. A government bill authorizing its sale ran into a brick wall of popular resistance, astonishing the companies and forcing the government to back down.

There is no scientific proof that "Frankenstein food" (as the London tabloids call it) is bad, but a large segment of the European consumer market does not intend to take a chance.

There is a high level of ecological activism in Europe, and people tend to think of the "mad cow" scandal when scientists say there is no risk in these foods. Nonetheless, such foods are big business, and enormous sums are at stake in exporting them.

A war over noisy aircraft looms between Brussels and Washington. New European noise standards are said to favor European over U.S. airlines since the Europeans fly newer aircraft and the Americans tend to fly older planes with retrofitted noise equipment that fails to meet EU standards. (The U.S. Congress says it will block the Concorde from landing in the

United States if the European noise ban stands.)

Then there is the so-called cultural issue. America considers France the villain, but Canada actually makes the most trouble about U.S. "cultural" exports. Canada has successfully banned to keep U.S. magazine and television exports from destroying their Canadian counterparts.

Last summer, Sheila Copps, the Canadian minister of cultural heritage, convened a meeting of 20 countries to discuss international cooperation in controlling not only the economic consequences of U.S. cultural exports (amortized on the home market), but the social effects of the violence and aggressiveness depicted in so many U.S. films and television exports.

The EU countries have established a "cultural exception" in trade in order to defend their own film and television industries. All this is ordinarily condemned in Washington as protectionism, which, in spirit, if not in letter, it usually is.

However, the Europeans have only themselves to blame. The defeat last year of the proposed Multilateral Investment Agreement, negotiated at the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, was provoked by public reaction against uncritical acceptance of the prevailing trade ideology.

The MIA agreement would have permitted companies to sue governments for losses suffered because of market limitations or restrictions imposed for noneconomic reasons.

Companies would have to be recompensed for losses suffer-



Special Invitation

ed as a result of high ecological or pollution standards in a given country. (Canada has already lost from one such suit against its ecology standards, brought under the North American Free Trade Agreement.)

The purpose of globalization has been to eliminate all barriers to international trade and fi-

nance. The market is held to be capable of resolving the social, ecological and cultural problems associated with trade because it automatically chooses the optimum solution. Experience says otherwise, as the trade disputes demonstrate.

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Sydney Hits the Big Time

By Neal R. Peirce

SYDNEY — Poised for the 2000 Summer Olympics "Sydney" is swinging. Sydney is sizzling. It used to be around the corner from nowhere; but in this new age it is emerging as the capital of the Pacific Rim and home port of the good life.

What city wouldn't revel in that description by R.W. Apple Jr. of The New York Times, writing in Town & Country magazine?

Sydney's bright new image underscores how cities once seen as distant and economically irrelevant — a famed Australian author wrote of the "tyranny of distance" that marginalized his country's economy — are now able, via instant communications, to be major players in the new globalized age.

With Sydney in the lead, Australia is experiencing a boom in banking, technology, business services.

It rivals the United States as the most Internet-connected nation on the globe. The position of the international date

MEANWHILE

line allows Sydney to open world markets each trading day. In addition, the city is attracting large numbers of major corporations, including American Express, State Street Bank & Trust and Bankers Trust, which have chosen to put their Southeast Asian headquarters here.

The old Australian staples of mutton, wool, beef and coal exports have not disappeared. But now they are just footnotes to the country's economy.

There has been an equally dramatic change from the bland white homogeneity of early Australia.

This, remember, is the continent that first opened to Western settlement as a convict colony — the place to dispatch brigands, thieves and murderers that Old England chose to send to the underside of the globe.

But since the 1970s "white Australia" policies have been abandoned. Sydney in particular has become a rich mélange of peoples from such far-flung spots as Lebanon, Chile, Greece, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam and China. Roughly 15 percent of the people of New South Wales now speak a language other than English at home — most commonly Italian, Greek, Arabic, Chinese or Spanish.

Especially significant, says Greg Sheridan, foreign editor of The Australian, is that a country that once defined its identity by rejection of Asia has opened its arms to people from Indonesia to Vietnam, Pakistan to Afghanistan. And not only by immigration but by a variety of people-to-people interactions — thousands of Asians have come to Australia for education and tourism and for services ranging from medicine to architecture.

Participants in a study mission organized by the Seattle Chamber of Commerce, visiting Sydney last month, were startled to hear leading Sydneysiders not only acknowledge rising multiculturalism in their city and across Australia, but celebrate it as a force behind their economic success.

Michael Egan, the New South Wales treasurer, highlights the switch of Sydney from "one of the most inward-looking, insular, monocultural cities on earth" to a "fabulously multicultural place." The transformation has "done wonderful things for the soul of our city — it is now far more cosmopolitan, a great city on earth," Mr. Egan said.

It is also proof of Australia's power of redemption, Mr. Egan adds, noting that two of his great-grandparents arrived on Jan. 28, 1788, escaping hanging in Britain by being dispatched to the convict colony for crimes they had committed.

Sydney leaders now boast that their city has 40 percent of Australia's speakers of Malay, Japanese and other Asian languages.

With today's instant communications, noted Loftus Harris, director-general of economic development for New South Wales, "We can handle service calls from all over Asia, answering in an appropriate language from wherever the phone rings." Indeed, the call center business is booming.

Richard Humphrey, chairman of the Australian Stock Exchange, speaks of how Sydney has built on the aspects of competitive costs and a stable democratic political system to create Southeast Asia's largest stock, futures and bond markets. He does not fail to include: "a skilled work force that is significantly multilingual."

One can say that great cities, from the dawn of history, have welcomed newcomers, "foreigners," the purveyors of new goods and cultures and ideas. Read the history of ancient city-states, from Athens to Venice to Hamburg, and that lesson rings through.

What Sydney underscores is the capacity of globalization to fast-forward the process, to create ideas and excitement and hope through opening windows — windows of personal contact, windows of cyber-spaced contact.

None of this guarantees the death of old prejudices, or making correct economic decisions. Nor does Sydney's modern-day good fortune excuse a history as dismal toward Aborigines as America's mistreatment of its native peoples.

What Sydney does represent is a 21st century wake-up call for every complacent city around the world: Open your doors, and welcome the world, its people — and the future.

Washington Post Writers Group.

U.S.-China Tensions Are Bad News for the Economies of Asia

By Alan Dupont

CANBERRA — As East Asia struggles to recover from the worst economic crisis in its modern history, and deal with the resulting political turmoil, the last thing the region needs is renewed volatility in relations between the United States and China.

Yet U.S.-China ties appear to be heading into stormy weather. It may presage an extended period of conflict between the two largest powers in the Pacific that could easily spiral out of control, raising tensions in East Asia just when the region needs stability and a constructive dialogue between Washington and Beijing.

Attitudes toward China in the United States have polarized over human rights, the ballooning trade imbalance, alleged Chinese theft of American nuclear weapons technology, and other issues. These objections are being expressed in an increasingly partisan way.

Under normal circumstances, such differences would be manageable. But a U.S. presidential election is looming and the Republicans are almost certain to maintain their hard line on China. Congressional critics of China are gearing up for a rhetorical offensive against a nation they see as the new Soviet Union — a state that denies its citizens human rights and could be the only competitor the United States faces in the next 25 years.

Beijing, for its part, suspects that America will use every opportunity to constrain China while publicly professing support for engagement. Beijing is also intent on reducing the U.S. military presence in East Asia and on regaining some of its former political and strategic influence.

In the current highly charged political atmosphere there is a real risk that emotions will overwhelm sound policy on both sides of the Pacific. Of immediate concern is the possibility that worsening political ties will poison security links between the two powers, setting back the considerable progress that has been made in building confidence and trust between two former enemies.

Washington and Beijing need to take immediate action to halt this alarming downward slide. They should begin by working out a compromise on theater missile defense, which Tokyo and Washington believe can protect Japan from a North Korean missile attack.

China must accept that Japan is entitled to protect itself against the threat of a ballistic missile strike from North Korea. The missile defense system is purely defensive and would only be effective against a handful of single-warhead mis-

siles of the kind possessed by North Korea. Such a limited shield would not be effective against China's more sophisticated and numerous missile arsenal.

The more China criticizes the shield, the more likely it is that Japan and the United States will deploy the system, and consider extending its coverage to Taiwan, which is China's real concern. Thus, a continuation of China's anti-shield rhetoric is only likely to result in the outcome Beijing most fears. This is neither good politics nor sound strategy.

In exchange for China's acquiescence to the deployment of the system in Japan, Tokyo and Washington should pledge not to extend the missile shield to Taiwan. Widening the shield's mantle would be certain to provoke Beijing because Taiwan does not face an immediate threat from North Korea.

Both China and the United States should ensure that their respective hawks do not derail the limited rapprochement that has been achieved through considerable diplomatic effort. There is simply no sensible alternative to managing the differences that will continue to bedevil such a key relationship.

Western critics of China are unlikely to bring about the change of behavior they desire by shrill and emotional denunciations of Chinese perfidy. On the

other hand, Beijing must understand that it cannot dictate the behavior of its neighbors by applying coercive power.

The United States and China have a broader obligation to ensure that their bilateral problems do not become a source of regional tension.

In a strategic relationship of this importance, divorce on the grounds of an irretrievable breakdown is simply not a sane option.

The writer, director of the Asia-Pacific Program at Australian National University's Strategic and Defense Studies Center, contributed this comment to the International Herald Tribune.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Fighting in the Balkans

Washington states that there is solid support from all NATO countries for the military action in Yugoslavia. I can tell you that here in Greece I have not met one person who has not condemned both NATO and the United States.

I cannot see how you can bomb someone into signing a peace agreement. Not only has NATO set a dangerous precedent by attacking a sovereign country without United Nations backing, but any Serbs who were sympathetic to the West will instead be bitter and distrustful for years to come.

MARK WEINSTEIN,
Athens.

Will the world be different after the NATO air strikes against Yugoslavia? Yes, it will. The NATO action is an invitation to other dictators to get their hands on nuclear weapons. If Slobodan Milosevic had them, NATO would have reacted in a different way.

ANDREAS SCHMIDT-GAYK,
Hannover, Germany.

NATO leaders should have foreseen the likelihood that Slobodan Milosevic would use the cover of bombing to conduct "ethnic cleansing" on a massive scale. In my view, the bombing and earlier threat to bomb were mistakes. Now it will probably require ground troops and more bombing to save the Kosovars who have not already fled their country.

In hindsight, more efforts should have been made to build institutions and civil society organizations in the region. Certainly, the financial and human costs would have been far lower.

L. MICHAEL HAGER,
Rome.

The UN Charter states that the aggressor is the one who attacks a sovereign country by intervening in its internal affairs. Serbia did not attack a NATO country and there is no legal basis for the bombing. NATO is an aggressor.

Many Serbian cultural monuments are in Kosovo, which has more than 200 medieval churches and monasteries. The greatest and most famous monastery in Kosovo is the one in Gracanica. This monastery is protected by Unesco. Stop the bombing.

Our country was twice attacked in this century. In both wars we were the first to fight against hegemonism, totalitarianism, fascism, nazism, and all unacceptable ideologies. After the two world wars,

Serbs were recognized as a proud people that first rose up against violence. And now, we are brutally attacked by NATO forces. Once again, we raise our voice against aggression and we know that in the end everybody will know that our people were the first to fight against this so-called New World Order. Stop this bombing and do not start World War III.

ILIJU DIJEKIC,
Belgrade.

The NATO policy of bombing Serbia instigated by the United States and Britain is wrong. The Serbs kill innocent people. So, in retaliation, we kill innocent people. What kind of policy is that? It is no policy. It is stupidity.

The nationality tangle in the region has a long and deeply rooted history. Neither side is innocent. Neither side is completely wrong.

Maybe someday Washington will learn the lesson that diplomacy for the long term is more effective than diplomacy for the short run. It is certainly more effective than bombing. People on the street here want to know if the Americans can do anything other than bomb those who thwart their will. What can I answer?

GEORGE STRONG,
Leiden, Netherlands.

Having just returned from Europe and having seen at close hand the reaction in many places to the bombing, I cannot help but wonder whether similar street demonstrations were occurring when the Serbs were routinely slaughtering Bosnians and Albanians. If not, why not?

Is there a double standard that somehow tolerates cruel perpetration of an injustice but is intolerant of a reaction to prevent that injustice?

The arguments that more negotiations could have helped is naive — there have been countless meetings with Slobodan Milosevic. How many more meetings have to occur before one concludes that he is operating deceitfully and is using the extra time to perpetrate more injustices? If Mr. Milosevic were an honorable man he would not be killing innocent people.

Unfortunately, people like Mr. Milosevic understand only two things — resolve and force.

THOMAS CROWLEY,
College Station, Texas.

These are the facts:
• The NATO attack on Yugoslavia will cost the alliance a lot of money.
• A lot of Americans, Englishmen and other NATO soldiers will die.

• The people of Yugoslavia are suffering in bomb shelters.

• The protection of the Albanians is not the reason for the attacks on Serbia.

• Yugoslavia is not attacking any other country in the region or the world.

• President Bill Clinton and his "companions" in this absurd adventure are destabilizing the entire region, risking a long-term war in Europe.

• NATO is promoting the goals of groups engaged in terrorism and heroin trafficking.

MILAN ORLOVIC,
Belgrade.

The demagogue and war criminal Slobodan Milosevic has reduced NATO to a state of apoplexy. Venting wrath has become policy.

The goal may have been to protect the civilian population of Kosovo from extermination, but the consequences of the bombing have been an acceleration of the mayhem and massacres. The NATO response seems to be: It has not worked so far, so we need to do it more.

BERNE WEISS,
Budapest.

We are witnessing a new page of Balkan, European and world history being written. It is a page that brings great worry and sorrow to my heart and that is once again being written in blood.

We have awoken to a new world, a world bereft of order. It was not brought to us by the Balkan powder keg, but by cruise missiles and B-52 bombers.

The Yugoslav peoples have built their existence on the blood-soaked fields of the Balkans. They have paid in blood for the freedom of their land. And that is why today, these people would rather be bombed than allow NATO to dictate their internal affairs.

Slobodan Milosevic is no angel, but we seem to forget that there are always two sides in a conflict.

Instead, we see a world where the conventions of the UN are shoved aside and fully ignored. This precedent leaves the world with a military police that can strike at whim, especially if a situation suits its "security interests."

Once upon a time there was a country, in the Balkans. But do not shed a tear for it, people of the world. Weep for the future of your own children, for today, they have been given a world with a tragic new order.

GORAN D. BUTORAC,
Toronto.

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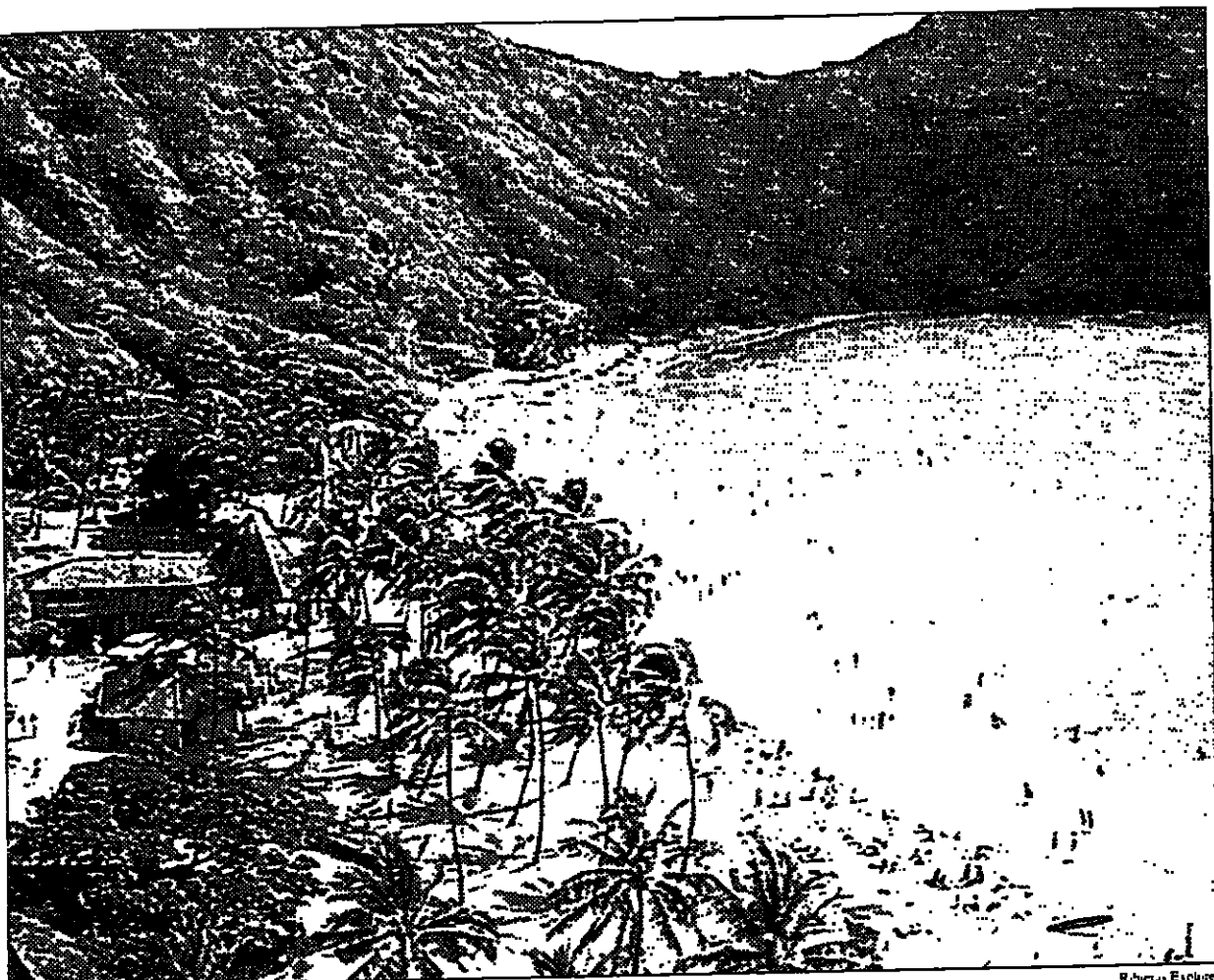
Leisure

TOMORROW
MONEY

From Pristine Alpine Slopes to the Glories of Oahu

Over the Mountains and Down to the Beach

After the Avalanches, Europe Skis Into Spring



No beach in Hawaii can be privately owned, and access must be free to all.

By Howard W. French
New York Times Service

HONOLULU, Hawaii — As visitors from even the nearest cities on the mainland United States know, any trip to Oahu takes at least six hours of air travel.

And from the East Coast, the trip can be twice that, or more. Such is the price of getting to the island that is home to Honolulu, and of seeing the sights and enjoying all that makes Oahu the favorite island of those who know Hawaii well.

Oahu offers a multitude of virtues: from the natural beauty of its mountains and beaches, to the easily-worn East-meets-West cosmopolitanism of Honolulu, Hawaii's capital and only big city. And for an island that can seem almost overrun with tourists — especially the first-time visitors who haunt Waikiki Beach — many of Oahu's charms are, if not exactly undiscovered, still very much unspoiled.

Where there are virtues, there is often a vice, however: Oahu's ever more burdensome traffic. Much of the morning and afternoon here resembles a nonstop rush hour. Still, almost any ride of any distance on this island, no matter how routine, is studded with spectacular views.

JAGGED LINK Take the Pali Highway, for example. One of three main expressways that snake over the impressive, jagged peaks of the island's mountainous backbone, the Koolau Range, it links the bedroom communities of the northern side of the island with Honolulu's

orderly, quiet, low-slung buildings and Main Street feel.

Just beyond Kaneohe lies an even smaller and quieter community, Kailua, where you'll find Kailua Beach Park, one of Oahu's best public answers to the exclusive resorts.

Here, on one of the more beguiling beaches in the world, tourists are relatively few.

Generously shaded by the long-needed ironwood pines that sway gracefully in the breeze, the park has well-kept public showers, and tables and benches for the weekend picnickers who congregate here.

On weekends, pickup games of volleyball run pretty much continuously, and the air is filled with the aroma of small charcoal barbecues.

Just beyond the fringe of shaded park land lies a white sand beach that sweeps crescentlike to enclose a picture perfect blue-green bay. The waters are gentle year-round and the beach's incline very shallow, making it an ideal place for small children.

A mile or so to the southeast is a swimming spot that some say is even more beautiful — Lanikai Beach, blessed not only with same lovely white sand and warm waters but also with the Mokulua islets, two small and picturesque atolls a short distance offshore. This mile-long beach is more exclusive, only because it is hidden from easy view behind the private waterfront homes of Kailua.

But no beach in Hawaii can be privately owned, and access must be free to all. To reach Lanikai Beach, all one need do is walk down one of the sandy

Pipeline, and Waimea Bay are spots where surfing legends are made in front of large crowds of onlookers during the winter surfing season.

Less well known to the hordes of visitors drawn by the spectacle of daredevil surfers wiping out in 15-foot (5-meter) waves is one of the most peaceful places on Oahu: Puu O Mahuka Heiau State Monument. The site, overlooking Waimea Bay, is accessible after a modest hike or short drive into cool and forested hills from Kamehameha Highway.

ZEN-LIKE SIMPLICITY

This is the site of one of a number of heiau, traditional Hawaiian places of worship, that can be seen throughout the islands, many devoted to healing through herbs, meditation and ritual sacrifice. This one, with its Zen-like simplicity, broad open space — enclosed only by waist-high walls of hand-laid volcanic stone — and sacrificial altar, is my favorite.

Even though visitors will usually find themselves alone here, people still come to pray and make wishes at the temple, offering to the spirits small gifts, like coins or stones, often wrapped in the long leaves of the Ti plant. Given the serenity of the monument, it is a bit difficult to imagine that it was a place of worship to the Hawaiian god of war, Ku, in whose name human sacrifices were once made.

Below the gentle slope of the temple plateau lies a placid network of tidal pools. The mountains and ocean, with its swells reduced by the distance to seeming playfulness, form the backdrop to one of Hawaii's most bewitching places to watch the sun set.

BLESSED ANTIDOTE Oahu offers any number of other antidotes to the ordinary tourist circuit. While Pearl Harbor is a prime stop for sightseers, another way to see it is from the mountains above, and one is far less likely to face crowds there. The Aiea Loop Trail, a 4.5-mile walk in the magnificent eucalyptus-forested cool of the Koolau Range is the way to get there.

Another hike in the mountains just north of downtown Honolulu is the two-and-a-half-mile Makiki Loop Trail, which affords some of the best views of the capital.

During the steep ride up the mountain be sure to keep the windows down to appreciate the fragrance of wild ginger, mango, guava, eucalyptus and bamboo. Generations of Hawaiians have told stories of teenage and other loves sealed or celebrated in the roadside scenic view spots.

An ideal spot to stop for lunch on the way up or down is the terrace café of the Contemporary Museum, a mountainside estate whose rolling, immaculate gardens were converted into a showcase for large and abstract outdoor sculpture. An indoor gallery houses rotating collections of painting and other art.

To the east of Honolulu lie the suburbs like Koko Head and Hawaii Kai, and farther along, around the tip of the island, Waimanalo, a farming community. Rugged Hanauma Bay, where surf crashes incessantly onto the steep, volcanic shoreline, is a highlight of a drive along this road.

At the Halona Blowhole, every few minutes the waves force great spouts of water to erupt through an old volcanic lava tube. In winter, humpback whales can be spotted on their way from the North Pacific.

Just to the left of the blowhole, hidden by the craggy volcanic cliffs but accessible through a short climb down to the shore, is Halona Cove, the small spit of sand where Burt Lancaster and Deborah Kerr embraced in "From Here to Eternity."

Chances are good that, given the popularity of Hanauma Bay and the famous Sandy Beach, close by at the eastern tip of the island, you could enjoy this spot all alone, too.

By Craig R. Whitney
New York Times Service

PARIS — Skiers and ski-resort operators in the Alps live for snow, but some of the heaviest snowfalls this century turned deadly this winter, setting off a series of avalanches in February.

For all but the hardest-hit resort, in Galtuer, Austria, where 32 vacationers and six villagers died in a devastating slide Feb. 23, fear of more tragedies has gradually receded as warmer weather has packed down the snow.

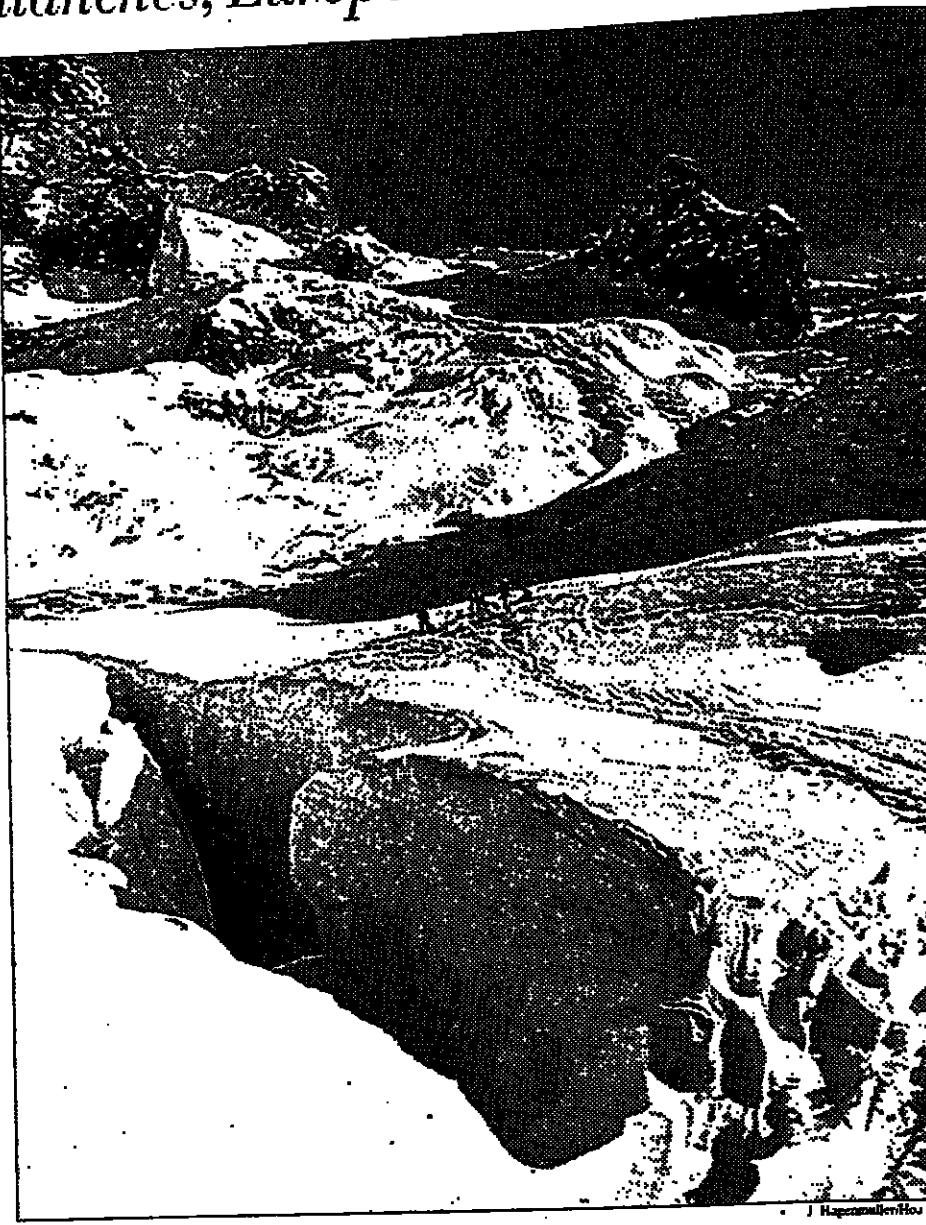
In the higher resorts in France, Switzerland, Italy and Austria, tourism officials expect the slopes to remain open through the end of April, even into May in some cases, with some of the best late-season skiing in years. In German-speaking Switzerland, skiers in Davos, Klosters and St. Moritz are going home with reports of excellent conditions that are expected to last.

"We've had a good amount of snow this winter, not a record amount, and the season will continue through to April 25," said Hubert Schwarzer, a hotel owner and tourism official in the Vorarlberg resort of Lech in western Austria, a couple of mountain ridges away from Galtuer.

DIGGING OUT Lech, nearby Zuers and St. Anton were all cut off for nearly two weeks by the heavy February snowfall when authorities closed roads and even the rail line from Zurich to Innsbruck because of the danger of avalanches. "From the end of February until March 6," Schwarzer said, "hotels in Lech were only about half full because people were afraid and canceled their reservations. But by mid-March we were back up to about 95 percent capacity."

That was not the case in Galtuer. "March is usually the best month of the year, but hardly anybody came this year after the avalanche," said Walter Gerhardt, tourism spokesman for the village.

Switzerland, where an avalanche Feb. 21 in the village of



A crevasse in the mountains near Chamonix in the French Alps.

Evoleine in the French-speaking Valais region killed seven people, was also hard hit.

"The fear didn't go away," said a tour operator in the Valais. Hundreds of thousands of people were stuck in Swiss ski resorts for days when roads were closed because of the danger of avalanches. Others couldn't get in to occupy the rooms they had reserved, or changed their minds about coming. Authorities in the Valais spent generously on publicity trying to reassure skiers that the slopes were as

safe as ever. That never means 100 percent safe in any ski resort, and avalanches in the Alps remain possible as the weather warms up, authorities warn, particularly if skiers disregard warnings and wander off piste.

Three skiers who died that in Val di Roia in the Alto Adige region of the Italian Dolomites on March 11 died in an avalanche they set off themselves, tourism officials there said.

The French Alps were struck by an avalanche at Montroc, near Chamonix on

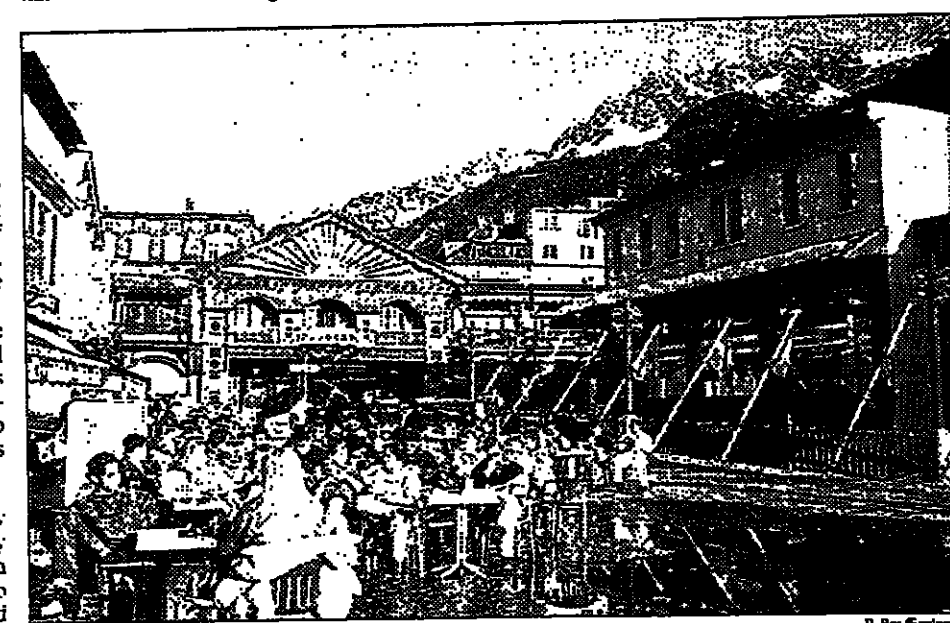
the slopes of Mont-Blanc, that took 12 lives on Feb. 9. For three weeks after that, Montroc was practically deserted, according to officials in that hamlet.

But when French school vacations started later in February few people canceled their reservations in Chamonix, said Delphine Rey, a village tourism official who said hotels reported less than 3 percent cancellations for the month as a whole.

THE Chamonix Web site (www.chamonix.com) was reporting more than two meters of snow on higher slopes in mid-March. Similar conditions at Courchevel lured Prime Minister Lionel Jospin there for a ski weekend with his wife just before St. Patrick's Day.

But Estelle Jouand, a tourism official for the Savoie region, said that resorts there were at only three-quarters capacity in the last week of February, when avalanches were big news in Switzerland and Austria. Normally at that time, she said, 85 to 90 percent of the 423,500 hotel beds in Savoie would be occupied.

Antonio Di Giandomenico, head of the tourist board in Abruzzo, said that the immediate effect of the avalanches in Italy was a short-lived, slight dip in hotel bookings. But the tourist flow quickly returned to normal, he said.



Few people canceled reservations in Chamonix as a result of the avalanches.

DINING

Back to Basics: The Paris Bistro

By Patricia Wells
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — Paris is full of those funky old bistros, with weird names like Le Buisson Ardent (the Burning Bush) and the sort of decor your great-grandmother might have created — wagon-wheel chandeliers, dusty murals of unexplained bucolic scenes and walls that are repainted every decade or so in classic eggshell tones.

One by one, these old spots — many of which lost their appeal as well as their clientele years ago — are being renewed in spirit but not in decor. And I am all for that. One of the more successful is Le Buisson Ardent, one of a series of 1940s neighborhood bistros along what was then the wholesale wine market and is today the horror of modern architecture, the Jussieu university.

New owners — the Duclos brothers, Francois in the dining room and Philippe at the stove — have breathed new life into the Left Bank spot, which has managed to retain a village-like charm, with high ceilings, square-tiled floors and classic Thonet chairs. With a lineup of dishes that are modern and creative, a bargain 90-franc (\$15) menu at lunch and a 160-franc menu at lunch or dinner, they are sure to win.

Starters include warm goat cheese and ham wrapped in pastry, all set on a bed of julienne vegetables, followed by such classics as *onglet de veau*, deliciously chewy veal flank steak,

served with a sadly undercooked potato cake wrapped in bacon, and an excellent version of braised *sauces d'agneau*, that meaty muscle attached to the tip of the bone of the leg of lamb.

Other tempting creations include roast chicken with buttery lentils; crab ravioli floating in a lemongrass broth, and roast suckling pig with seared foie gras. The wine list could use some attention (our Beaujolais Moulin a Vent was drinkable, but no more), and the chef gets a bravo for attempting homemade bread, but it's anemic and needs great help.

It's the sort of place you would probably not wander into on your own, one of those nondescript cafés on a quiet side street. But take another look and you'll see that Le Mauzac is bursting at the seams with a faithful clientele that will follow the owners, Christine and Jean-Michel Delhomme, anywhere. They once ran Les Pipsos wine bar nearby.

In one corner, a fat golden mongrel snoozes on the floor. In another, a hat rack tumbles over, burdened with the weight of winter. Men sit alone with their *bullons de rouge* and a platter of sausages, while a child sits at the bar doing his homework.

It's a pure 5th arrondissement neighborhood scene, and everyone who's here knows exactly what they want that day. Most don't even bother with a menu, since they came for the fat and juicy *onglet de boeuf*, beef flank steak,

teamed up with you-can't-stop-eating-them fries, or the Friday specials of sautéed crevettes and a mound of deep-fried salt cod. Another good bet might be the first-course platter of *moules de porc*, headcheese, sliced paper thin and topped with marinated onions and a puckerly vinaigrette. On my last visit, I adored the *filet mignon de porc*, excellent pork tenderloin bathed in a creamy mustard sauce.

The wine list is ever-changing, so it is best to check out the list at the bar before you settle down. Some good bets include Rhone offerings from Corinne Costurier at Rabasse-Charavin, or Marcel Richard in Clairme. In good weather, the terrace is a fine place for lunch, along the tree-lined Rue de l'Abbe de l'Epee.

Le Buisson Ardent, 25 Rue Jussieu, Paris 5; tel: 01-43-54-93-02; fax: 01-46-33-34-77. Closed Saturday lunch, Sunday, the month of August and one week at Christmas. Credit cards: Visa, American Express. 90-franc lunch menu, 160-franc dinner menu. A la carte, 220 to 230 francs, including service and wine.

Le Mauzac, 7 Rue de l'Abbe de l'Epee, Paris 5; tel: 01-46-33-75-22. Closed Saturday for dinner, Sunday and three weeks in August. Credit cards: Visa, Mastercard, Diners Club. A la carte, 150 to 180 francs, including service but not wine.

Patricia Wells can be reached on the Web at: www.patriciawells.com



The crater of the Koko volcano on Oahu.

business district. It winds gently up into the heavily forested heights overlooking the capital, before cresting near a major landmark in the islands' history: the spot where King Kamehameha defeated his last major rival in 1795, unifying the island chain for the first time under one man's rule.

Here, at the Pali Lookout, great gray slabs of clouds bank up against the sheer cliffs where the victorious king is said to have disposed of his enemies, casting them to their deaths hundreds of feet below.

In the early morning hours, and especially in the magical light of late afternoon, the lookout is a world of soothing quiet and luminous green. From the Pali Lookout, you can easily lose yourself gazing at the lush and peaceful Kaneohe Plain below, with the shocking blue of the Pacific just beyond. In the opposite direction, lies the bone white skyline of Honolulu.

Continuing on the Pali Highway to the windward northeast coast of Oahu, one first enters Kaneohe, originally a small farming community that has grown up a good bit, but somehow still retains much of the feel of 1950s America, with its

alleys that separate private property every 50 yards or so. Because of the aforesaid, this beach is especially popular among kayakers and canoers.

Although most people drive straight through the Kaneohe area on their way to somewhere else, it has several interesting sites worthy of a close look.

AMONG them is the Byodo-In Temple, a 1968 replica of a famous temple of the same name in Japan, which attests in its majestic way to the cultural influence of the Japanese, who have been immigrating to Hawaii for more than 100 years. Kaneohe is also home to the 400-acre (120-hectare) Hoomaluhia Botanical Garden, which includes a trail that winds past a 32-acre lake, and the private Haiku Gardens, one of Hawaii's most beautiful and a popular place for outdoor weddings.

From this corner of the island, the Kamehameha Highway follows the coast north to the North Shore of Oahu, made famous by the surfing culture and competitions that abound there. Places like Sunset Beach, the nearby Ehukai Beach, home of the so-called Banzai

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MOVIE GUIDE

OFFICE SPACE

Directed by Mike Judge. U.S.

"Office Space," a knowing, somewhat light, often hilarious send-up of cubicle culture, exploits the yuks in the chronic misery of those routinely exposed to the monotonous gray of corporate minds and company decor. Set in a nondescript Intitech Corp., the film focuses on a clutch of white-collar wage slaves in the throes of existential dread. They work hard, come in on time and do what they are told (no matter how ridiculous). In return, they receive a modest paycheck and on special occasions, a sheet cake. They endure inane memos, inept managers, fickle copiers and windows that won't open. They attend motivational seminars, work on weekends and kid each other about going postal. All the while, they're caged in their cubicles, which provide neither privacy nor solace, but serve as constant reminders that they don't merit ceilings and doors. Written and directed by Mike Judge of "Beavis and Butt-head" and "King of the Hill," this live-action film aims at a more career-minded crowd than either of those TV sit-coms. Yet Peter Gibbons (Ron Livingston) and his cronies at Intitech Corp. are no less befuddled by their circumstances than Judge's cartoon characters. Peter, a dispirited desk jockey in his mid-20s, hates his job, but fears losing it just the same. In desperation, he consults an "occupational hypnotherapist," who suffers a fatal heart attack before waking Peter from a trance. Now freed of his fears and anxieties, he decides that work, like paying the bills, is no fun at all and maybe he just won't do it anymore. To the astonishment of his smarmy boss (Gary Cole), Peter starts coming in later and later and frequently doesn't show up at all. His colleagues figure he'll get the ax. Instead he's given a promotion when a pair of efficiency experts determine that he's a "straight shooter with upper management written all over him." Based on three of Judge's early animated shorts, the film lacks a unifying theme and a compelling story line. But as social satire, it sure hits close to home for many a corporate drone. (Rita Kempley, WP)

PRIVATE CONFESSIONS

Directed by Liv Ullmann. Sweden.

In "Private Confessions," an unfaithful wife hesitates beside the telephone, wondering whether to call her lover. Were it not for this scene's period clothing and antique instrument, there would be little about the moment to anchor it in 1925, though that is when most of this sensitively acted, extraordinarily pedigreed film takes place. Written by Ingmar Bergman, directed by Liv Ullmann, shot by Sven Nykvist and starring Pernilla August, who expands upon her performance as Anna Bergman in "The Best Inten-



Ajay Naidu, left, and David Herman in "Office Space."

tions." "Private Confessions" has a behavioral acuity that defies any particular time period. Once again Bergman writes about his stern father and privileged, restless mother as if they were his intimates rather than his parents. Again he finds something universal in their marital difficulties, which are envisioned here with pitiless frankness and, ultimately, with overwhelming compassion. And Ullmann, who faced the conundrums of "Bergman's" great, piercing "Scenes From a Marriage" with soul-baring intensity, takes a similar tack in directing August here. "Private Confessions" begins and ends with explicitly religious references that suit Anna's search for absolution. The story begins in a churchyard, where Anna approaches the fatherly priest she calls Uncle Jacob (Max von Sydow, who did play Anna's actual father in "The Best Intentions"), in need of help. She tells him about her unhappiness with Henrik (Samuel Frøler) and about her affair with a married friend named Tomas (Thomas Hanzon). August's deliberately maudlin, plain countenance tells its own story, one of frustrated passion and wild longing for escape. As she has her confrontation with Henrik in the film's next sequence, her desperation comes to the fore. Though Ullmann makes the spouses' conversation so Bergmanesque that at first Anna's revelation prompts more gloom than fury, the sequence escalates into the film's most searing argument, a fight that defines the marriage even while tearing it apart. The bitter words heard here could leave scars forever. If "Private Confessions" were not fundamentally about how passions change over time. (Janet Maslin, NYT)

CA COMMENCE AUJOURD'HUI

Directed by Bertrand Tavernier. France.

Daniel (Philippe Torreton), the son of a miner in Valenciennes, France, has inherited a tough life. A kindergarten principal, he grapples with the drama of jobless parents, silent children and an administration that bumbles along blindly. Written by Tiffany Tavernier with Dominique Sampiero, the script is inspired by Sampiero's own experience as a kindergarten principal in northern France. Bertrand Tavernier invents an alcoholic mother who collapses in the schoolyard and culminates with the schoolyard and culminates with the schoolyard. With its hand-held camera panning, the movie veers from realism to melodrama, often with humor and heart, not always with success. The tempestuous Torreton injects a tone of personal indignation into the role of Daniel who confronts emergencies every minute — the suffering of battered children at work, the revolt of his girlfriend's child at home. He is always saving somebody: When his father has a heart attack, he runs to the rescue; when a couple says they can't wake up in time to send their kid to school, he tells them off. In Daniel, there's a stubborn, brutish boy too attached to his kindergarten for the taste of flamboyant Valeria (Maria Pitarresi). She wants grown-up behavior — marriage and a baby — old hat for young militants. This mix of realism and sentimentalism suits a declamatory movie that shouts its good intentions and a director who believes in perilous enterprises. (Juan Dupont, IHT)

Cherry Blossom Time in Tokyo

By Stephanie Strom
New York Times Service

TOKYO — The sakura "front" is already moving up the Japanese archipelago, working its magic on a country emerging from winter, if not from its economic slump. In Tokyo the anticipation of the sakura, cherry blossoms, is palpable. Their less-celebrated but equally exquisite heralds, plum blossoms, have taken their bows, and office pools are forming to bet on the precise date the cherry trees around the Imperial Palace will first unfurl their fragile white blossoms kissed with pink.

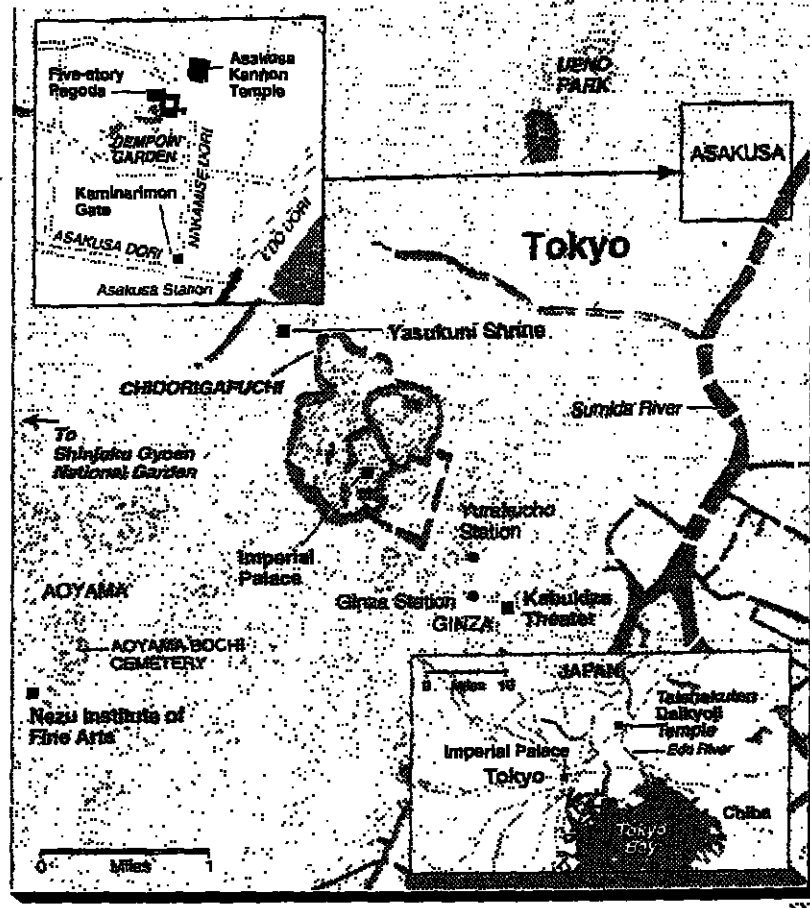
The nightly weather report includes an update on any looming acts of God that might delay or accelerate the blooming, and new employees have been charged with their first responsibility: securing the best spot for senior colleagues to enjoy a picnic under a canopy of blossoms. In congested Tokyo, college graduates who have just taken up their first jobs often spend the night before a planned picnic sleeping at the site, to reserve the space. No wonder, then, that during the few precious days that the cherry blossoms adorn their trees it seems as if all 12 million residents are squashed into Ueno Park, Shinjuku Gyoen National Garden and Chidori-gafuchi, the section of the moat along the northwestern perimeter of the Imperial Palace grounds that is widely regarded as Tokyo's prime cherry-blossom viewing spot, with more than 1,000 cherry trees.

The reality is that flowering trees abound at this time of year, and the city offers plenty of spots to marvel at them. If the crowds in Chidori-gafuchi bring on agoraphobia, walk a ways down Yasukuni Dori to Yasukuni Shrine, which honors Japan's war dead. The complex is home to hundreds of cherry trees whose buds are used to predict the arrival of the blossom. A word of warning: Yasukuni is also a mecca for the khaki vehicles that traverse Tokyo blaring nationalistic music, so viewing cherry blossoms there is not always a tranquil experience.

A personal favorite is Aoyama Cemetery in the tony Aoyama district, southwest of downtown. Opened in 1874, it is the resting place of some of Japan's most illustrious figures, including Shigeru Yoshida, prime minister from after World War II until 1954.

Another option is to float down the Sumida River, which is lined with cherry trees. The Tokyo Cruise Ship Company operates a 45-minute *o-hanami*, or cherry-blossom viewing, cruise for \$7.50 (at 120 yen to the dollar).

The Nezu Institute of Fine Arts, 6-5-1 Minami Aoyama, Minato-ku, a little



museum near Aoyama Cemetery will hold an exhibition of Japanese and Chinese traditional art with flower motifs through April 18. It will include paintings and *makie* utensils fashioned from gold lacquer, some dating from 15th-century Japan and the southern Sung Dynasty, which reigned from the 10th to the 13th centuries.

Sensoji, also known as the Asakusa Kannon Temple, is perhaps Tokyo's best-known temple complex and the emblem of Shitamachi, or the old city. Equal parts bazaar and temple, Sensoji's festive atmosphere is heightened during sakura season. Just inside Kaminarimon Gate, home to a massive red lantern that weighs almost a ton, is a cluster of stalls where merchants sell kitschy souvenirs and rice-cracker snacks and sweets.

The complex features a five-tiered pagoda and a beautiful Japanese garden called Dempoin, which is part of the chief abbot's residence. Dempoin is closed Sundays and during religious events. Have a hotel clerk call ahead to check, and to let them know you are coming. The temple complex is a short

walk from the Asakusa stop on the Ginza subway line or via the Tobu railway.

Less well known is Taishakuten Daikyoji Temple in Shibamata, another pocket of the old city. Taishakuten is famous for its elaborately carved walls featuring episodes from Buddhist scripture. The carvings, done in the late 1800s, are now encased in a glass box, but visitors can walk around the structure inside the glass box. The \$3.33 entrance fee includes the lovely Japanese garden in back of the temple. To reach Shibamata, take the Keisei Railway to Takasago and change to the Kanamachi feeder train.

THE Edo Tokyo Museum, 1-4-1 Yokohama, Sumida-ku, offers a peek at how Tokyo looked in the Edo Period from 1603 to 1868 using models of famous areas and structures. The museum itself, however, is a tribute to the Tokyo that existed in the "bubble" economy of the 1980s, with its futuristic building of silvery steel. There are also models depicting the city during the Meiji Period after Edo, the Great Earthquake of 1923 and World War II.

BOOKS

A THOUSAND SUNS

Witness to History

By Dominique Lapierre. 482 pages.
\$25. Warner Books.

Reviewed by Colman McCarthy

OF his researching a 1965 article for Reader's Digest on the bullfighter El Cordobes, Dominique Lapierre writes that he had "the good fortune" to accompany the matador on his private plane flying around to arenas for the next kill.

Of his successful surgery for a prostate problem, Lapierre details his "good fortune" at beating cancer.

Of his buying a house and a piece of vineyard in Saint-Tropez on the French Riviera, Lapierre wonders "how long would it take me to discover all the secrets of my small paradise? Probably a lifetime."

With these and some dozen other reportorial accounts of his fortunate adventures as an international author of popular history, Lapierre presents himself as both a storyteller and a memoirist "in the twilight of my life." Better known in Europe, where he worked for Paris Match, than in North America, he co-authored "Is Paris Burning?," which sold more than 5 million copies. Other works, including "Oh Jerusalem" and "The Fifth Horseman," also authored with Larry Collins, brought him wealth and celebrity.

"A Thousand Suns" is an engaging collection of stories about people who, Lapierre writes, have "a taste for noble causes" and a "rage to overcome adversity." A weakness of his prose is that some of it remains well short of the heights of which he writes. His literary skills are often Reader's Digest plain and Paris Match ordinary. In a few chapters — on a maritime hijacker, and on an Israeli arms dealer — Lapierre is to well-crafted language what Mantovani is to classical music: schmaltzy but passingly entertaining.

Lapierre does not hide his admiration for the "extraordinary people" whose stories he tells. In some profiles, a touch

of dispassion would have helped. His account of the Spanish bullfighter reeks of gee-whiz journalism. Not only does Lapierre gush at El Cordobes's knack for driving swords into the torsos of tormented and trapped cattle but he admires him for "braving the barbs of American animal rights activists."

Lapierre's lapse is the common one among many media people: They become so chummy with the Great Ones that they start to identify with them. His meetings with El Cordobes "are always occasions on which to recall, in a flood of beer and vino tinto, the unforgettable events of the extravagant temporades of the sixties."

When boozey war stories aren't being told, Lapierre has better, even memorable, moments. His strongest chapter — "A Green Room on the Shores of the Pacific" — is the account of six visits in 1960 to the San Quentin death row cell of Caryl Chessman, convicted of robbery and rape. The eventual gassing of Chessman — author of "Cell 2455 — Death Row" — heaved the nation into a capital punishment debate as frenzied as any state-sanctioned killing in the past half-century.

Lapierre deftly catches the mood of the day: "The most contemptible arguments were brought to bear," he wrote after reading through the telegrams and letters that teemed into the office of Governor Edmund Brown of California. "Chessman is a Jew and Jews always manage to get away with it," claimed one letter, while another castigated "civil rights defenders and other communists who contaminate America's true values by coming to Chessman's defense."

One woman promised: "I am a Catholic and I shall never go to church again if his sentence is commuted." Reminding people that the Apostle Paul had been put to death despite his innocence, one Baptist pastor inquired: "Are we to abolish our laws just because an innocent man might be decapitated?" A petition signed by 12 graduates of the University of California demanded quite simply

that Chessman be killed "so that he stops being a burden to the taxpayers."

Lapierre's reporting of the Chessman execution easily earns a high place in death penalty literature. He can lay solid claim to another well-deserved honor: generosity of spirit. For much of the past 20 years, Lapierre has put his money — lots of it — where his aroused conscience is.

In the early 1980s, he immersed himself for two years in the slums of Calcutta, with research into the lives of street beggars, the handicapped and the dying, filling 20 notebooks and tapes with hundreds of hours of interviews. It led to "The City of Joy," which led to large royalties, as did "Freedom at Midnight," about Gandhi and India's independence. Lapierre gave half the income for medical, housing and educational centers in India, and sold his spread in Saint-Tropez to raise money for his many India programs. He began a foundation to keep the funds flowing.

Lapierre's final chapter, "Men, Women and Children Who Are the Light of the World," reveals a writer far more pensive, mature and spiritual than his youthful numskull days of glorifying a bullfighter. His prose is sharper. The compelling message from this final chapter is that writing can and should have a purpose well beyond paychecks and applause. For Lapierre, writing became a form of service, used to ease as much of the world's suffering as he could take on personally and, after that, bring some literary pleasure into the lives of a reader or two.

Now in his late sixties, Lapierre has done that. He has shown how a life of writing can be a life of compassion. How many can say that? The poor of Calcutta and other areas of India whose pain Lapierre has eased have likely never read a line he wrote. What they saw in his heart, and backed by deeds, meant more than what they would have seen in his books.

Colman McCarthy, who directs the Center for Teaching Peace, wrote this for The Washington Post.

BRIDGE

By Alan Truscott

SOME 4,000 players were at the American Contract Bridge League's Spring Nationals. Most of the top teams included a player-sponsor, but there was a major exception from the New York area: Bob Blanchard, Jim Krekorian and Mark Feldman of Manhattan; Ron Gerard of White Plains, and Bill Pollack of Warren, New Jersey, with Drew Casen of Boca Raton, Florida.

Pollack had reason to be happy about the play of the diagrammed deal, which arose during a game arranged as a practice for the Nationals. East's decision to pass as dealer proved to be right, for an opening weak two-bid would have produced a double from North, a penalty pass

by South and a score of 800 for North-South. As it was, North pushed aggressively to three no-trump and the heart queen was led.

After winning the first trick

NORTH
♠ K Q 8 3
♥ A
♦ K J 7 5
♣ A 7 6 2

WEST
♠ 10 8 5
♥ Q
♦ A 9 6
♣ J 8 5 3

EAST
♠ A 9
♥ K J 8 5 4 2
♦ S 4 3
♣ 10 4

SOUTH (D)
♠ 7 4 2
♥ 10 9 7 6 3
♦ Q 10 2
♣ K Q

Both sides were vulnerable. The bidding:
East: 1♣, 1NT, 2♣, 3NT.
West: 1♣, 1NT, 2♣, 3NT.
Pass: Pass, Pass, Pass.

West led the heart queen.

with the heart ace, Pollack, South, could count eight tricks and could see that a ninth would be available if West held the spade ace. This became distinctly unlikely when he led to the diamond queen and lost to the ace.

West shifted to a club, won in the closed hand with the king. South cashed the club queen, crossed to the diamond king and took the club queen. He led to the diamond ten and reached the position at right, needing three more tricks: When the heart ten was led and the club seven thrown from dummy, East was caught in an unusual endplay.

He could score no more than three tricks. If he ducked, South would lead a spade. He chose to take two heart winners and continue the suit, giving South two heart tricks and a spade in dummy at the fin-

ish. Playing the ace and another spade would have been no better. The best chance was to win and lead the spade nine, but South would have won in dummy, cashed the diamond jack and led any spade, scoring a heart in the closed hand at the finish.

NORTH
♠ K Q 8 3
♥ A
♦ J
♣ 7

WEST
♠ 10 8 5
♥ Q
♦ A 9 6
♣ J 8 5 3

EAST
♠ A 9
♥ K J 8 5 4 2
♦ S 4 3
♣ 10 4

SOUTH
♠ 7 4 2
♥ 10 9 7 6 3
♦ Q 10 2
♣ K Q

ARTS GUIDE

AUSTRIA

VIENNA
Palais Harrach, tel: (1) 533-7593, open daily. To June 6: "Die Pracht der Medici: Florenz und Europa." Documents the history of the Medici rulers of Florence from the mid-15th century to the mid-17th century, and the magnificence of their collections. Paintings by Botticelli, Raphael, sculptures by Giambologna, tapestries and weapons are among the 300 exhibits.

BRITAIN

EDINBURGH
Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, tel: (131) 332-2266, open daily. To May 9: "Avigdor Aron: Selected Paintings and Drawings." A retrospective of the works of the Israeli draftsman and painter (born 1929). Features nudes, still lifes and portraits in oil, watercolor and pastel.

LONDON
Royal Academy of Arts, tel: (171) 300-8000, open daily. Continuing To April 18: "Monet in the 20th Century." Features 80 paintings completed in the final decades of the artist's life.

Victoria and Albert Museum, tel: (171) 938-8349, open daily. To July 25: "The Arts of the Sikh Kingdoms." Documents the cultural and religious history of the Sikh kingdoms of the Punjab in the 19th century. The exhibition features paintings, textiles, jewelry and weaponry from the treasury of the first Sikh maharaja whose tolerance allowed Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs to co-exist peacefully. www.vam.ac.uk

FRANCE

PARIS
Museum of Modern Art, To May 26: "Cousins: A Journey on a Bridge over the Seine, about 60 large figurative sculptures etching Nuba, Massai warriors, Peulh shepherds and scenes from the battle at Little Big Horn by the Senegalese artist (born 1935). Musée Carnavalet, tel: 01-45-63-50-75, closed Mondays. To June 27: "L'Age d'Or de la Céramique Chinoise." Nearly 100 ceramic pieces from the 7th to the 14th centuries that highlight the evolution of materials and techniques in China.

GERMANY

MUNICH
Kunsthalle der Hypo-Kulturstiftung, tel: (89) 22-78-17, open daily. To May 30: "Ernst Ludwig Kirchner." 200 works by the German Expressionist painter (1879-1935).

HONG KONG

University Museum and Art Gallery, tel: 2375-5800; closed Fridays. To July 4: "Adornment of the Body and Soul: Ancient Chinese Ornaments From the Mang-dexuan Collection." A selection of 250 personal ornaments dating from the Warring States to the Ming period. Made of bronze, bone, gold, silver, jade, agate, amber and other semi-precious stones, the ornaments include earrings, pendants, combs and belt hooks. www.hku.hk

ITALY

VENICE
Palazzo Grassi, tel: (041) 522-



Portrait of Ranjit Singh, the first Sikh maharaja of the Punjab, in a London exhibition about Sikh arts.

9875, open daily. Continuing To June 13: "Maya: Six hundred years trace the development of the Mayan civilization in Central America and Mexico. www.palazzoglassi.it

Peggy Guggenheim Collection, tel: (041) 520-6288, closed Tuesdays. To May 24: "Ann Albers." A selection of weavings, drapery materials and wall coverings as well as graphic works by Albers (1899-1994), the wife of Josef Albers and a well-known textile designer. The exhibition will travel to Botrop, Germany, Paris and New York.

JAPAN

TOKYO
Tokyo Station Gallery, tel: (3) 3212-2485, closed Mondays. April 3 to May 16: "Twentieth-Century Silk-Like Paintings From the Philips Collection." Explores styles and approaches to 20th-century art, from purely representational to almost abstract still lifes, with works by Bonnard, Ruffin, Tarnay, Man Ray, the Cubist painters and such mid-century artists as Rausch, Morandi and Ben Nicholson. The exhibition will travel through Japan.

NETHERLANDS

AMSTERDAM
Rijksmuseum, tel: (20) 674-7000, open daily. To June 13: "The Floating World." Japanese scroll paintings dating from the 17th century depict the "floating world" or *ukiyo*, with portraits of courtesans, actors and depictions of pastimes in the Edo period (1600-1868).

SWITZERLAND

GENEVA
Musée d'Art et d'Histoire, tel: (22) 418-2800, closed Mondays. To Sept. 5: "Between Art and Ritual: Shields of Africa, South-East Asia and Oceania." Borrowing

Expressionism to the present scene. The collection was assembled by the Chase Manhattan Corporation. www.miah.org

NEW YORK
Frick Collection, tel: (212) 201-2000. To April 25: "French and English Drawings of the 18th and 19th Centuries From the National Gallery of Canada." More than 80 works by Constable, Hogarth, Ruskin, Turner, Bonnard, Delacroix, Ingres and Renoir, among others. www.frick.org

CLOSING SOON

ASIA
April 4: "Ancient Egypt Exhibition: The Habsburg Collection." Isetan Museum of Art in Shinjuku, Tokyo.

EUROPE
April 4: "Picasso: Engravings 1900-1942." Museu Picasso, Barcelona.
April 5: "Gods and Heroes of the Bronze Age: Europe at the Time of Ulysses." Nationalmuseum, Copenhagen.
April 5: "Rabbin's Rival: Archibald Striving." Scottish National Portrait Gallery, Edinburgh.
April 5: "Samurai & Bushido: The Mirror of Japan." Historical Museum of the City of Vienna, Austria.
April 5: "The Magic of Trees." Fondation Beyeler, Basle, Switzerland.

SUMMER FESTIVALS

MONTREAL
Printemps des Arts, tel: (514) 931-8303, fax: 9350-6694. April 3 to May 8: Open to different musical styles, the Printemps offers performances by the Ballets de Monte-Carlo and the Orchestre Philharmonique de Monte-Carlo under Jean Claude Casadesu and Claudio Abbado; recitals by Cecilia Bartoli, mezzo-soprano, and Ivo Pogorelec, piano. Julia Migenes is the interpreter of her musical creation, "Divas au Bord de la Cnele Nerls." The Culbreg Ballet closes the festival with Mats Ek's choreography of "Giselle."

Compiled by Elisabeth Hopkins

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The Associated Press

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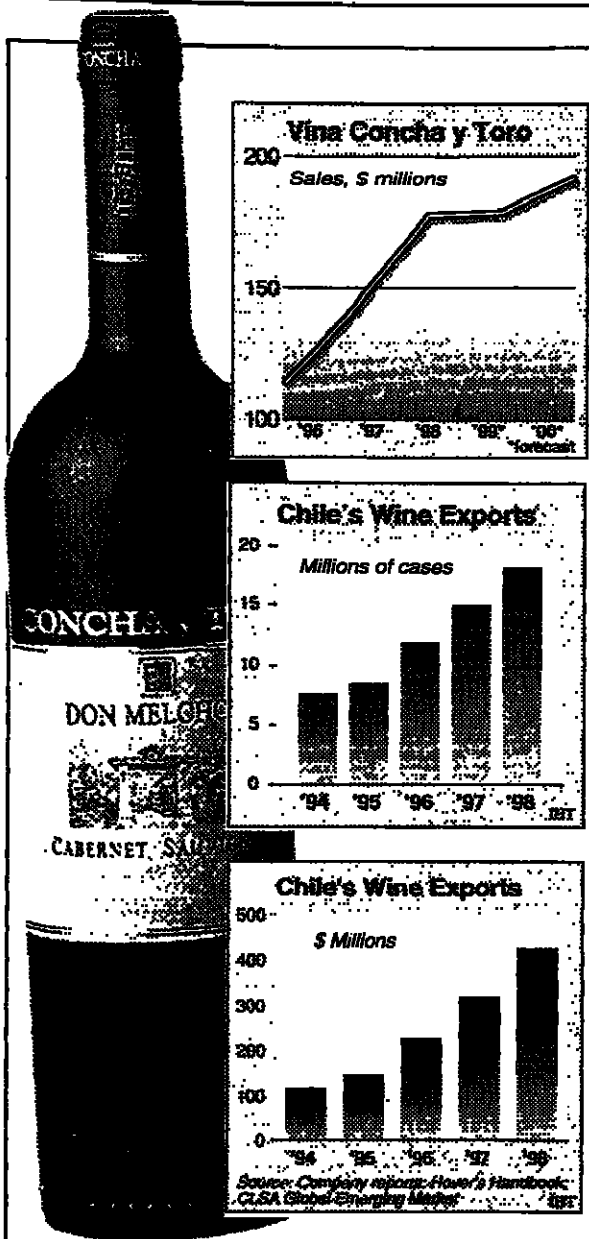
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FRIDAY, APRIL 2, 1999

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Chilean Winery Is Going Global

Record Profits for Vina Concha

By Aline Sullivan
Special to the Herald Tribune

SANTIAGO, Chile — Vina Concha y Toro SA is the toast of Chile. The country may be heading into recession after almost two decades of growth, but its largest wine producer is making record profits.

A superb marketing campaign both at home and abroad, a weaker currency and, not least, better wines encouraged the purchase of 97.8 million liters (25.7 million gallons) of the company's wine in 1998, up from 83.8 million liters a year earlier. The result was a 16.6 percent jump in net income to \$21.4 million for the year.

"Vina Concha is one of the visionary wine-producing companies," said a CLSA Global Emerging Market analyst, Brad Solfest, in Santiago. "It's done a good job of establishing brand recognition throughout the world, which isn't easy to do. People know that there is a great price-to-quality relationship for all its wines. It's really a terrific company."

Its success has encouraged a number of similar ventures. The near-perfect soil and climate in Chile's Central Valley and the relatively cheap labor and land have attracted some big players in the industry, notably such California producers as Robert Mondavi and Franciscan Estates. They have joined Rothschild of France in pouring millions of dollars into upgrading Chile's image into that of a world-class wine maker.

Chile's biggest producers have risen to the challenge. Santa Rita, Cousino-Macul and Santa Carolina are investing heavily in the marketing of their best export brands, mostly reds, while preserving their reputation for excellent value. The Chilean peso's 7 percent slide against the dollar in the last 12 months makes the wines even more attractive to Americans.

Today, Chile ranks behind only France and Italy in exporting wine to the United States. Sales to Britain and even France are growing rapidly.

But size and longevity count for a lot in this business. Vina Concha's vast holdings — 12 vineyards in five of the six principal wine-growing areas of Chile as well as its own vinification plants, bottling operations and a rapidly expanding distribution network — ensure that it remains the country's biggest exporter and one of the fastest growing: export sales rose 30 percent last year. It also remains by far the best known. That, say analysts who follow the company, should help it.

Domestically, the company has pulled off a neat trick by moving upmarket and taking the drinking public with it. Consumers up and down the country are abandoning their cheap cartons in favor of bottles, while Santiago's middle classes are spending more than the \$10-a-bottle limit common for most Chilean wines.

And the future looks equally bright, despite a drought that is affecting this year's harvest.

"Increasing wine consumption worldwide reflect its better image and the growth in understanding of its health benefits," said the Vina Concha's chief executive and largest shareholder, Eduardo Guisasa, whose family owns 38 percent of the stock.

Speaking after the release of the company's consolidated results last week, he noted that premium and varietal wines, or wines deriving from a single grape

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Browne's Style Gets Results

Oil Giant's Driving Force

By Agis Salpukas
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — For a man in a hurry, Sir John Browne is, by all appearances, remarkably composed.

Sir John, the chief executive of BP Amoco PLC, is a soft-spoken and charming man who rarely appears ruffled. He is fond of ballet and pre-Columbian art and often listens to Puccini operas at BP Amoco's Edwardian headquarters in London.

For an oil executive, he is unusually sensitive to environmental concerns and has even had dinner with the leaders of Greenpeace.

Yet Sir John, 50, is also known for a relentless drive as he pushes BP Amoco to take on the behemoths in the industry, Mobil Corp., Exxon Corp. and Royal Dutch/Shell Group.

In turning around British Petroleum and acquiring Amoco, he has cut tens of thousands of jobs and shaped an organization where there is constant pressure to do better and almost no layer of middle management.

Just three months after the Amoco acquisition, he is poised to pursue another rapid overhaul now that his company is acquiring the Atlantic Richfield Co. for more than \$27 billion. Arco's board approved the deal Wednesday night, after BP Amoco's board approved the deal on Tuesday.

Sir John declined requests for an interview. But from past speeches and interviews and from conversations with other industry executives, it is clear that Sir John's strategy is to transform BP Amoco into a company that is at much at home in Silicon Valley as in the Oil Belt.

A manager at BP Amoco, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said: "This is a hands-on oil man who has mastered what was going on in Silicon Valley. He adopted American ways and the American work ethic. He's not someone who came up through the English system."

The new BP Amoco being constructed looks like no other oil company.

In contrast to the elaborate, centralized structure of most oil companies, BP Amoco is managed by about a dozen executives. They ride herd over more than 140 units, some of which are still in the process of being set up.

The units are intended to be small enough for managers and their staffs to get to know each other and learn what is expected of them. Each unit's performance is reviewed quarterly.



Sir John Browne, chief executive of BP Amoco PLC, is now poised to overhaul Arco.

Fergus McLeod, an analyst with BT Alex. Brown in London, said: "He has a genius for devising motivational structures to get people to do what he wants them to do."

While pursuing a master's degree in business at Stanford University in the 1970s, Sir John got to know Andrew Grove, one of the founders of the Intel Corp., the world's dominant chipmaker. Mr. Grove, BP Amoco executives say, made the young BP executive aware of the vast changes imminent in information technology and their implications for corporations.

Since becoming chief executive of British Petroleum in 1995, Sir John has pushed to knit together the far-flung operations of BP Amoco by means of thousands of personal computers into what he describes as a "virtual team network." The system allows widely scattered employees to work together closely and provides them with up-to-date information on other units.

He has also encouraged employees to set up home pages on the World Wide Web, where they describe the skills they have to offer and

share information about technical details. The goal is to give managers and employees immediate access to knowledge that they can apply to their own businesses.

In addition to an emphasis on information technology, BP Amoco has sought to emulate the entrepreneurial ethos of Silicon Valley.

Each unit manager has a performance contract in which financial and other goals are spelled out and which are closely monitored by the top executives.

In a speech at the Yale School of Management in September, Sir John said that organization in small units was the key to making a global company work.

"We've learned over time that people like to work in relatively small units, where they can equate effort and results," he said. "Where they can see what they're achieving."

Each of the units has "operational freedom," he said. "They are running their own

INTERNATIONAL MANAGER

See MANAGER, Page 15

BP Amoco's High Hopes

Arco Deal Makes It No. 2

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

LONDON — BP Amoco PLC said Thursday it would pay \$26.6 billion in stock to buy Atlantic Richfield Co., an acquisition that would create the world's second-largest oil company.

BP Amoco, now the world's third-biggest publicly traded oil company, said the Arco purchase would generate pretax savings of \$1 billion by 2001, at a one-off cost of \$1 billion.

BP Amoco said 2,000 jobs were expected to be eliminated, mainly in the United States, but outside Alaska, from a combined work force of 115,000.

The bid, which Arco directors approved Wednesday, represents a 26 percent premium to the company's market value Friday, before their talks were announced.

The combined company would be exceeded in size only by the planned Exxon Corp.-Mobil Corp. combination.

The buyout is the latest in a wave of consolidations, as the world's biggest oil companies restructure in the face of low crude oil prices. It would be the fourth major acquisition in the oil industry since August, when BP agreed to buy Amoco Corp. for \$62 billion — the biggest deal completed so far and the first major takeover in the industry since 1984.

The purchase will give BP Amoco an important retail network in the Western United States and control of Arco's plentiful gas reserves in Asia. It also will allow the companies to jointly exploit plentiful reserves in Alaska.

The deal is subject to approval by shareholders in both companies, as well as by U.S. antitrust regulators and the European Commission. Sir John Browne, BP Amoco's chief executive, said he hoped to complete the transaction by the end of the year.

The bid ends Arco's efforts to remain independent. In September, it said it was cutting \$500 million in costs, including 1,200 jobs, and shedding its corporate jets to help it survive low oil prices. Arco's top executives will relinquish their posts to allow BP Amoco to control the combined company, according to the Wall Street Journal.

The acquisition would raise BP Amoco's daily oil output by 32 percent, to 2.7 million barrels, Sir John said.

Still, investors on the London market, who have bid BP's shares up in recent days on reports of the intended purchase, were left cold by the actual announcement. In London, BP

See BP, Page 15

Russia Looks to IMF As Reserves Dwindle

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

MOSCOW — The Bank of Russia said Thursday it would continue paying most of the government's foreign debt in the second quarter from its dwindling reserves, which have fallen to a 3-year low.

But the central bank said that it was counting on replenishing those reserves with an International Monetary Fund loan.

The central bank reported that its gold and foreign exchange reserves had dropped to \$10.9 billion by the end of last week as the bank used \$2.1 billion to support the ruble and to pay Russia's foreign debts in the first quarter.

Viktor Geraschenko, the bank's chairman, also said that Russia would pay "a bit more" of the debt in the second quarter.

Depletion of the reserves is raising fears that the ruble might renew its slide or that Russia might default on its debt. But a transfer to central bank vaults would be controversial because about \$4 billion the IMF pumped into its coffers last July rapidly evaporated in defense of the falling ruble.

The government said it reached an agreement with the IMF on its economic program this week. But Stanley Fischer, the IMF's first deputy managing director, said Wednesday that Russia still had a long way to go

before getting new money. With more than \$6 billion in foreign debt due by the end of July, Russia needs the IMF money as soon as possible to ease pressure on reserves.

Mr. Fischer's "evaluation that there could be delays in releasing the loan" puts a "certain pressure" on the central bank, and its activities, Mr. Geraschenko said at a news conference. "In April, May and June we will continue to help the government pay foreign debt. I hope we don't reach" a critical level.

The IMF suspended Russia's \$22.6 billion loan package in September, when the government failed to formulate an economic program in the wake of its debt default and currency devaluation. The central bank began paying the government's foreign debts in the last quarter, when the government could no longer make the payments because it lost access to international financing.

"Like last year, if the IMF will finally make the right decision and release certain sums of money to Russia, these funds will be under the control of the central bank," Mr. Geraschenko said.

Until now the government has said it expects new IMF money to be used to pay off maturing loans that Moscow owes the Fund this year. Mr. Geraschenko also said that



Mr. Geraschenko, the bank's chief, sees dangers for Russia.

the government would soon decide which of the country's struggling banks will receive state support and which will be allowed to fail, the Interfax news agency reported.

Practically all of the country's 18 most important banks, which control 80 percent of Russia's banking operations and 45 percent of its private deposits, need government help, he said. (Bloomberg, AFP, AP)

Yahoo! Expands With Broadcast.com Buy

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

NEW YORK — Yahoo! Inc. said Thursday that it would buy Broadcast.com Inc. in a stock swap valued at \$5.7 billion in a bid to add sports, news and music programs to its World Wide Web site.

The transaction puts Yahoo! in a solid position to take advantage of the high-speed future of the Internet. Broadcast.com runs a vast Internet site with many kinds of audio and video programming. Its services are expected to grow in popularity as connections to cyberspace get faster and easier.

Tim Koogle, the chairman and chief executive of Yahoo!, said: "The acquisition is a natural extension of our strategy to deliver the ultimate experience to Web users."

The boards of both companies met Wednesday and approved the deal, which had been rumored for some time.

Paul Noglows, a San Francisco-based analyst with Hambrecht & Quist, said the acquisition "really positions Yahoo! to play a defining role as we see the rise of audio and video content on the Web. From Broadcast.com's perspective, it will make their services available to a much broader range of users, considering Yahoo! attracts 50 million unique users to its site a month."

Under the deal, Broadcast.com shareholders will receive 0.77 shares of Yahoo! for each of their shares, which values the deal at about \$130 a share, 10 percent above Broadcast.com's closing price Wednesday. Yahoo! also will convert Broadcast.com options into options for 5.51 million Yahoo! shares.

On Thursday, shares of Broadcast.com rose \$10.3125 to \$128.50 and Yahoo! shares rose \$7.50 to \$176.875 in late trading. Shares of Broadcast.com had risen in recent days on reports the two companies were discussing a deal.

Yahoo! said it expected the Broadcast.com transaction to add to earnings beginning in the third quarter of 2000. It also expects to continue to deliver an operating margin of 30 percent to 36 percent.

The acquisition, subject to approval by regulators and Broadcast.com shareholders, will be accounted for as a pooling of interests and is subject to conditions. It is expected to be completed in the third quarter of 1999.

The deal is yet another move by Yahoo! to take advantage of its \$34 billion stock market value by using its shares to pay for acquisitions.

In January, Yahoo! agreed to exchange stock, now worth \$2.7 billion, for Geocities, on which 3 million people publish Internet home pages. (AP, Bloomberg, NYT)

CBS to Buy Syndicator King World

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

NEW YORK — CBS Corp. said Thursday it would buy King World Productions Inc., the biggest syndicator in U.S. television, for about \$2.5 billion in stock.

The deal would greatly expand CBS's position in the business of selling programs to TV stations and complement its other broadcasting activities, led by its ownership of the CBS television network.

King World, whose hits include "Jeopardy" and "The Oprah Winfrey Show," has been a frequent subject of takeover speculation, and the rumors about a deal with CBS had intensified in recent days.

"We have considered many strategic options over the last several years and this merger is by far the most attractive," said Roger King, chairman of King World.

Under the deal, Mr. King and his brother Michael, who is vice chairman of the syndication company, would continue in their current positions and report to the head of the CBS Television unit.

CBS's existing syndication division, Eyemark Entertainment, would operate independently of King World.

Besides its TV network, CBS owns 14 television stations and a cable TV division with four music and sports networks and a controlling interest in a company that owns 160 radio stations and an outdoor advertising business. (AP, Bloomberg)

CURRENCY RATES

Cross Rates									
	\$	£	¥	CS	DM	Greek	Swede		
London (a)	1.405	—	23.698	191.85	2.4148	11.0343	484.41	13.1923	
New York (b)	—	1.40330	1.48	120.47	1.4995	6.8876	302.52	8.231	
Tokyo	118.70	191.42	79.99	—	78.79	17.19	n.a.	14.38	
Toronto	1.50	2.4053	1.014	1.2451	—	0.2179	0.4955	0.1831	
Zurich	1.4765	2.3673	—	1.2348	0.9803	21.4868	0.4894	0.1797	
One euro	1.0754	0.6693	1.5958	128.50	1.6215	7.432	326.90	8.885	
One SDR	1.3578	0.8426	2.0194	163.484	2.0493	9.4089	412.648	11.27	
Interbank rates excluding commissions.									
a To buy one pound; b To buy one dollar. *Per 100; n.a.: not quoted; n.c.: not available.									
Sources: Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi (Tokyo); Royal Bank of Canada (Toronto); Banque de France (Paris); IMF (SDR). Other data from Reuters.									
Euro Values									
Fixed rates of the EMU member currencies, for one euro									
Austrian schilling	13.7603								207.544
Belgian franc	40.3399								1,936.27
Dutch guilder	5.5473								2.20371
French franc	6.55957								200.482
German mark	1.93603								166.386

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THE AMERICAS

Yeltsin's Call Wall Street Held Back by Inflation Uncertainty

For Meeting Lifts Euro

Bloomberg News

NEW YORK — The euro rose against the dollar Thursday after Russia called for an emergency meeting of the Group of Seven leading industrial countries to try to end the conflict in Yugoslavia.

In earlier trading, the dollar had risen against the euro and the yen.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

amid signs the war in Yugoslavia was intensifying. That lured traders to the U.S. currency as a refuge.

Europe's single currency remains vulnerable to any signs the war is escalating, traders said.

"I think it's getting worse if anything," said Jan Erik Wameryn, chief proprietary trader at Skandinaviska Enskilda Banken AB. "I don't think Russia is going to play an important role."

President Boris Yeltsin of Russia urged foreign ministers of the G-7 (United States, Britain, Germany, France, Italy, Canada, Japan) and Russia to work out a plan for resolving the crisis.

In 4 P.M. trading, the euro rose to \$1.0792 from \$1.0755 Wednesday. The dollar fell to 1.4800 Swiss francs from 1.4828 francs. The pound slipped to \$1.6033 from \$1.6120.

The dollar climbed to 120.470 yen from 119.025 yen after Etsuko Sakakibara, Japan's deputy finance minister for international affairs, said the yen's strength was "undesirable," giving traders an excuse to buy dollars.

NEW YORK — Stocks rose Thursday after an industry survey showed unexpected strength in the U.S. manufacturing sector. But gains were tempered by concern that inflation may revive, which drove bond yields higher.

"The growing economy, low inflation and declining interest rates have been the biggest supporters for the stock market," said Robert Bloom, chief executive at Friends Ivory & Sime. "Things are still humming along." But at some point, he said, the possibility of inflation "could have a negative effect on the stock market."

The Dow Jones industrial average

U.S. STOCKS

climbed 17.75 points, to 2,479.15. Advances and decliners were about evenly matched on the New York Stock Exchange.

Bond prices fell on the inflation concerns after the National Association of Purchasing Management reported its monthly index of business activity rose to 54.3 percent in March, an increase of 1.9 percentage points from its February level.

In another sign of economic vig-

or, the Commerce Department reported that construction spending jumped a much stronger-than-expected 2.2 percent in February.

The department also reported personal income increased a seasonally adjusted 0.5 percent in February after a 0.6 percent gain in January. Consumer spending, meanwhile, jumped 0.7 percent after a 0.4 percent rise the previous month.

The benchmark 30-year Treasury bond fell 21/32 point, to 94, taking the yield up to 5.67 percent from 5.62 percent Wednesday.

Many investors in both the stock and bond markets were trading carefully ahead of the long weekend. Financial markets will be closed Fri-

day in observance of Good Friday.

Software companies held back the S&P 500 after PeopleSoft warned of a revenue shortfall. The company said it was suffering from a slowdown in spending that has plagued the software industry.

PeopleSoft fell 5/8 to 14, the lowest level in three years. Oracle fell 1/4 to 26 1/8. Computer Sciences fell 2 1/8 to 52 1/8 and Autodesk fell 2 1/8 to 38.

CBS fell 1/4 to 40 1/16 and King World Productions rose 1/8 to 30 1/16 after the U.S. network said it was buying King World, television's biggest syndicator.

Phone companies were strong, with SBC Communications rising 1 3/4 to 48 1/16. (Bloomberg, AP)

Brazil Looks Into Banks' Profits on Real

By Simon Romero
New York Times Service

SAO PAULO — Brazil's central bank is conducting an investigation into preliminary results to the central bank showing they made substantial profits after the devaluation of the currency, the real, largely through a combination of successful investments in futures markets and purchases of dollar-linked government bonds.

Their large profits, coming as the economy is struggling with recession, resulted in calls by several members of Congress to look into the legality of the companies' actions.

This week, Senator Antonio Carlos Magalhães, the president of the Senate and a man widely considered the most powerful legislator in

ing companies allegedly involved includes Citigroup Inc., J.P. Morgan & Co. and BankBoston Corp.

Many banks in recent weeks have reported preliminary results to the central bank showing they made substantial profits after the devaluation of the currency, the real, largely through a combination of successful investments in futures markets and purchases of dollar-linked government bonds.

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This week, Senator Antonio Carlos Magalhães, the president of the Senate and a man widely considered the most powerful legislator in

Brazil, said he would support a congressional inquiry into accusations that some banks had used inside information to profit from the devaluation. That move is separate from the central bank's investigation.

Georges Lamaziere, a spokesman for President Fernando Henrique Cardoso, said Tuesday that the government saw no problem with the congressional inquiry going forward. The central bank's investigation should be finished by next week, and the results will be announced then, a bank representative said in Brasília, the capital. Most of the banks have said they broke no laws by accumulating profits in the aftermath of the devaluation, which pushed the real down by 40 percent against the dollar.

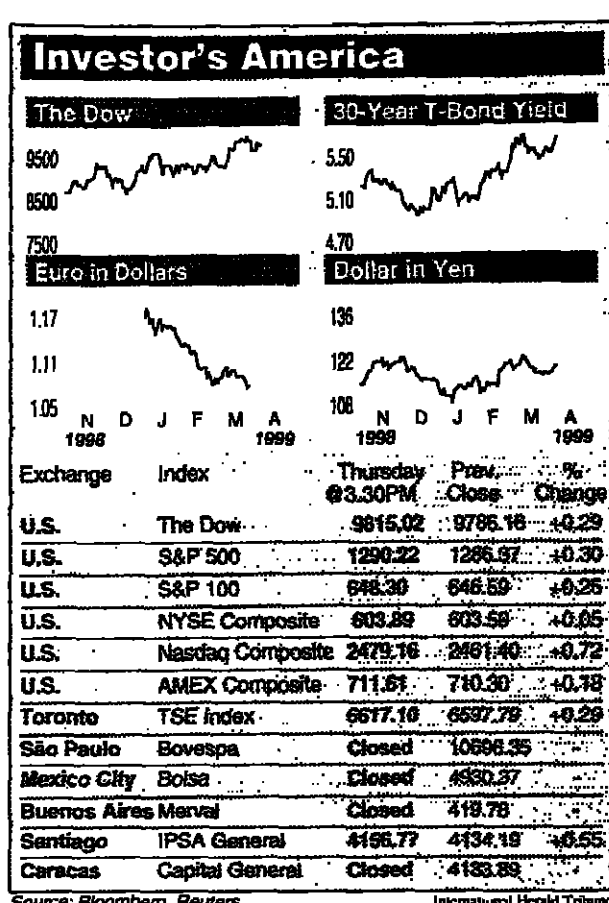
Toshiba to Cut U.S. Chip Output

Bloomberg News

IRVINE, California — Toshiba America Electronic Components Inc. said Thursday it planned to cut production of 64-megabit dynamic random-access memory chips 90 percent by the end of the year as it moves capacity to other memory products.

Toshiba America, a subsidiary of the chipmaker Toshiba Corp., said it would shift production to a more advanced manufacturing process and more expensive products not as price sensitive as D-RAM chips.

Toshiba said it now makes about 10 million pieces per month and will cut that to 1 million units per month by December.



Very briefly:

- Microsoft Corp.'s antitrust trial has tentatively been set to resume May 10. The judge has laid out a longer timetable for additional testimony, oral arguments and written submissions, making it unlikely the trial will end before 2000.
- GMAC Commercial Mortgage Corp., a unit of General Motors Corp., agreed to buy a \$1.4 billion mortgage-servicing portfolio from Mellon Bank Corp. for an undisclosed sum.
- The cellular-phone industry added a record 13.9 million U.S. subscribers last year, as lower prices drew customers.
- Philip Morris Cos.' Kraft Jacobs Suchard SpA unit will sell its salami business to Chiari & Forti SpA of Italy for an undisclosed sum.
- Ventas Inc.'s auditors, Ernst & Young LLP, expressed doubt about the health-care property company's survival because of financial troubles at its sole tenant, Vencor Inc.
- California's Supreme Court allowed 14 public agencies in an Orange County investment pool to sue Merrill Lynch & Co., which they accuse of helping to bankrupt the county in 1994.
- Rockefeller Center, the landmark building in Manhattan, earned \$7.6 million last year, the first annual profit under its new owners, a group led by Goldman, Sachs & Co.
- The International Petroleum Exchange has put on hold talks to merge with the New York Mercantile Exchange until a competing plan to sell a majority stake to a group of companies has been considered.

To Our Readers

Because of the seven-hour time difference between New York and Paris this week, the U.S. stock tables, the U.S. futures and some other financial data in this edition reflect early or previous day's prices, as noted. This change is necessary to meet distribution requirements.

We will revert to our usual coverage next week, when daylight saving time begins in North America.

U. S. STOCK MARKET DIARY

Thursday, April 1									
Most Active									
Indexes					NYSE				
Dow Jones									
Index	High	Low	Open	Close	Change	Volume	High	Low	Open
Indus	9786.44	9669.00	9765.60	9810.50	+24.90	1,067,773	153	1474.00	1474.00
Transp	2061.27	2013.85	2015.00	2015.00	+5.15	1,067,773	153	1474.00	1474.00
Comp	2061.27	2013.85	2015.00	2015.00	+5.15	1,067,773	153	1474.00	1474.00
Standard & Poors									
Index	High	Low	Open	Close	Change	Volume	High	Low	Open
Industrials	1383.81	1349.33	1349.70	1353.26	+4.56	1,067,773	153	1474.00	1474.00
Transport	722.14	697.87	700.27	700.61	+3.34	1,067,773	153	1474.00	1474.00
Finance	254.45	252.56	252.51	253.13	+0.62	1,067,773	153	1474.00	1474.00
S&P 500	1014.00	1003.57	1003.57	1009.47	+5.90	1,067,773	153	1474.00	1474.00
S&P 100	662.72	648.34	648.37	649.40	+1.03	1,067,773	153	1474.00	1474.00
Nasdaq									
Index	High	Low	Open	Close	Change	Volume	High	Low	Open
Composite	6612.78	6611.43	6613.43	6614.00	+0.57	1,067,773	153	1474.00	1474.00
Technology	1061.27	1058.57	1058.57	1058.57	+2.80	1,067,773	153	1474.00	1474.00
Finance	548.55	545.73	546.54	547.11	+0.57	1,067,773	153	1474.00	1474.00
Nasdaq									
Index	High	Low	Open	Close	Change	Volume	High	Low	Open
Composite	7028.48	7028.34	7027.36	7027.36	+1.02	1,067,773	153	1474.00	1474.00
Technology	1061.27	1058.57	1058.57	1058.57	+2.80	1,067,773	153	1474.00	1474.00
Finance	548.55	545.73	546.54	547.11	+0.57	1,067,773	153	1474.00	1474.00
AMEX									
Index	High	Low	Open	Close	Change	Volume	High	Low	Open
10 Industrials	104.07	103.23	103.23	104.07	+0.84	1,067,773	153	1474.00	1474.00
10 Techs	106.23	105.23	105.23	106.23	+0.99	1,067,773	153	1474.00	1474.00
10 Health	104.07	103.23	103.23	104.07	+0.84	1,067,773	153	1474.00	1474.00
10 Energy	106.23	105.23	105.23	106.23	+0.99	1,067,773	153	1474.00	1474.00
10 Finance	104.07	103.23	103.23	104.07	+0.84	1,067,773	153	1474.00	1474.00
10 Telecom	106.23	105.23	105.23	106.23	+0.99	1,067,773	153	1474.00	1474.00
10 Retail	104.07	103.23	103.23	104.07	+0.84	1,067,773	153	1474.00	1474.00
10 Auto	106.23	105.23	105.23	106.23	+0.99	1,067,773	153	1474.00	1474.00
10 Food	104.07	103.23	103.23	104.07	+0.84	1,067,773	153	1474.00	1474.00
10 Drug	106.23	105.23	105.23	106.23	+0.99	1,067,773	153	1474.00	1474.00
10 Media	104.07	103.23	103.23	104.07	+0.84	1,067,773	153	1474.00	1474.00
10 Utility	106.23	105.23	105.23	106.23	+0.99	1,067,773	153	1474.00	1474.00
10 Real Estate	104.07	103.23	103.23	104.07	+0.84	1,067,773	153	1474.00	1474.00
10 Insurance	106.23	105.23	105.23	106.23	+0.99	1,067,773	153	1474.00	1474.00
10 Other	104.07	103.23	103.23	104.07	+0.84	1,067,773	153	1474.00	1474.00

Trading Activity									
NYSE					Nasdaq				
IBM Corp	104.07	103.23	103.23	104.07	IBM Corp	104.07	103.23	103.23	104.07
Microsoft	106.23	105.23	105.23	106.23	Microsoft	106.23	105.23	105.23	106.23
Oracle	104.07	103.23	103.23	104.07	Oracle	104.07	103.23	103.23	104.07
PeopleSoft	106.23	105.23	105.23	106.23	PeopleSoft	106.23	105.23	105.23	106.23
Computer Sciences	104.07	103.23	103.23	104.07	Computer Sciences	104.07	103.23	103.23	104.07
Autodesk	106.23	105.23	105.23	106.23	Autodesk	106.23	105.23	105.23	106.23
CBS	104.07	103.23	103.23	104.07	CBS	104.07	103.23	103.23	104.07
King World	106.23	105.23	105.23	106.23	King World	106.23	105.23	105.23	106.23
SBC Communications	104.07	103.23	103.23	104.07	SBC Communications	104.07	103.23	103.23	104.07
Vencor Inc.	106.23	105.23	105.23	106.23	Vencor Inc.	106.23	105.23	105.23	106.23
GMAC Commercial Mortgage	104.07	103.23	103.23	104.07	GMAC Commercial Mortgage	104.07	103.23	103.23	104.07
Rockefeller Center	106.23	105.23	105.23	106.23	Rockefeller Center	106.23	105.23	105.23	106.23
International Petroleum Exchange	104.07	103.23	103.23	104.07	International Petroleum Exchange	104.07	103.23	103.23	104.07
New York Mercantile Exchange	106.23	105.23	105.23	106.23	New York Mercantile Exchange	106.23	105.23	105.23	106.23
AMEX					Market Sales				
Advanced	778	776	776	778	NYSE	778	776	776	778
Advanced	778	776	776	778	NYSE	778	776	776	778
Advanced	778	776	776	778	NYSE	778	776	776	778
Advanced	778	776	776	778	NYSE	778	776	776	778
Advanced	778	776	776	778	NYSE	778	776	776	778
Advanced	778	776	776	778	NYSE	778	776	776	778
Advanced	778	776	776	778	NYSE	778	776	776	778
Advanced	778	776	776	778	NYSE	778	776	776	778
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Advanced	778	776	776	778	NYSE	778	776	776	778
Advanced	778	776	776	778	NYSE	778	776	776	778
Advanced	778	776	776	778	NYSE	778	776	776	778
Advanced	778	776	776	778	NYSE	778	776	776	778
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Advanced	778	776	776	778	NYSE	778	776	776	778
Advanced	778	776	776	778	NYSE	778	776	776	778
Advanced	778	776	776	778	NYSE	778	776	776	778
Advanced	778	776	776	778	NYSE	778	776	776	778
Advanced	778	776	776	778	NYSE	778	776	776	778
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Advanced	778	776	776	778	NYSE	778	776	776	778
Advanced	778	776	776	778	NYSE	778	776	776	778
Advanced	778	776	776	778	NYSE	778	776	776	778
Advanced	778	776	776	778	NYSE	778	776	776	778
Advanced	778	776	776	778	NYSE	778	776	776	778
Advanced	778	776	776	778	NYSE	778	776	776	778
Advanced	778	776	776	778	NYSE	778	776	776	778
Advanced	778	776	776	778	NYSE	778	776	776	778
Advanced	778	776	776	778					

Dividends									
Company									
Symbol	Dividend	Yield	Ex Date	Pay Date	Change	Volume	Symbol	Dividend	Yield
IBM	0.50	4.8%	3/31	4/1	+0.00	1,234,567	IBM	0.50	4.8%
Microsoft	0.60	5.6%	3/31	4/1	+0.00	1,234,567	Microsoft	0.60	5.6%
Oracle	0.40	4.8%	3/31	4/1	+0.00	1,234,567	Oracle	0.40	4.8%
PeopleSoft	0.50	4.8%	3/31	4/1	+0.00	1,234,567	PeopleSoft	0.50	4.8%
Computer Sciences	0.30	3.6%	3/31	4/1	+0.00	1,234,567	Computer Sciences	0.30	3.6%
Autodesk	0.40	4.8%	3/31	4/1	+0.00	1,234,567	Autodesk	0.40	4.8%
CBS	0.50	4.8%	3/31	4/1	+0.00	1,234,567	CBS	0.50	4.8%
King World	0.60	5.6%	3/31	4/1	+0.00	1,234,567	King World	0.60	5.6%
SBC Communications	0.40	4.8%	3/31	4/1	+0.00	1,234,567	SBC Communications	0.40	4.8%
Vencor Inc.	0.50	4.8%	3/31	4/1	+0.00	1,234,567	Vencor Inc.	0.50	4.8%
GMAC Commercial Mortgage	0.30	3.6%	3/31	4/1	+0.00	1,234,567	GMAC Commercial Mortgage	0.30	3.6%
Rockefeller Center	0.40	4.8%	3/31	4/1	+0.00	1,234,567	Rockefeller Center	0.40	4.8%
International Petroleum Exchange	0.50	4.8%	3/31	4/1	+0.00	1,234,567	International Petroleum Exchange	0.50	4.8%
New York Mercantile Exchange	0.60	5.6%	3/31	4/1	+0.00	1,234,567	New York Mercantile Exchange	0.60	5.6%
AMEX	0.30	3.6%	3/31	4/1	+0.00	1,234,567	AMEX	0.30	3.6%
100 AMEX	0.30	3.6%	3/31	4/1	+0.00	1,234,567	100 AMEX	0.30	3.6%

U.S. Stock Tables Explained									
S&P 500									
Symbol	High	Low	Open	Close	Change	Volume	Symbol	High	Low
IBM	104.07	103.23	103.23	104.07	+0.84	1,234,567	IBM	104.07	103.23
Microsoft	106.23	105.23	105.23	106.23	+0.99	1,234,567	Microsoft	106.23	105.23
Oracle	104.07	103.23	103.23	104.07	+0.84	1,234,567	Oracle	104.07	103.23
PeopleSoft	106.23	105.23	105.23	106.23	+0.99	1,234,567	PeopleSoft	106.23	105.23
Computer Sciences	104.07	103.23	103.23	104.07	+0.84	1,234,567	Computer Sciences	104.07	103.23
Autodesk	106.23	105.23	105.23	106.23	+0.99	1,234,567	Autodesk	106.23	105.23
CBS	104.07	103.23	103.23	104.07	+0.84	1,234,567	CBS	104.07	103.23
King World	106.23	105.23	105.23	106.23	+0.99	1,234,567	King World	106.23	105.23
SBC Communications	104.07	103.23	103.23	104.07	+0.84	1,234,567	SBC Communications	104.07	103.23
Vencor Inc.	106.23	105.23	105.23	106.23	+0.99	1,234,567	Vencor Inc.	106.23	105.23
GMAC Commercial Mortgage	104.07	103.23	103.23	104.07	+0.84	1,234,567	GMAC Commercial Mortgage	104.07	103.23
Rockefeller Center	106.23	105.23	105.23	106.23	+0.99	1,234,567	Rockefeller Center	106.23	105.23
International Petroleum Exchange	104.07	103.23	103.23	104.07	+0.84	1,234,567	International Petroleum Exchange	104.07	103.23
New York Mercantile Exchange	106.23	105.23	105.23	106.23	+0.99	1,234,567	New York Mercantile Exchange	106.23	105.23
AMEX	711.81	710.30	710.30	711.81	+1.51	1,234,567	AMEX	711.81	710.30
100 AMEX	711.81	710.30	710.30	711.81	+1.51				

NASDAQ

Thursday's 3 P.M.
The 1,000 most traded National Market securities
in terms of dollar value, updated twice a year.
The Associated Press.

Symbol	Stock	Div	Yld	PE	100 High	Low	Latest	Chg
AA	AA							
AAA	AAA							
ABX	ABX							
AC	AC							
AD	AD							
AE	AE							
AF	AF							
AG	AG							
AH	AH							
AI	AI							
AJ	AJ							
AK	AK							
AL	AL							
AM	AM							
AN	AN							
AO	AO							
AP	AP							
AQ	AQ							
AR	AR							
AS	AS							
AT	AT							
AV	AV							
AW	AW							
AX	AX							
AY	AY							
AZ	AZ							
BA	BA							
BB	BB							
BC	BC							
BD	BD							
BE	BE							
BF	BF							
BG	BG							
BH	BH							
BI	BI							
BJ	BJ							
BK	BK							
BL	BL							
BM	BM							
BN	BN							
BO	BO							
BP	BP							
BQ	BQ							
BR	BR							
BS	BS							
BT	BT							
BV	BV							
BW	BW							
BX	BX							
BY	BY							
BZ	BZ							
CA	CA							
CB	CB							
CC	CC							
CD	CD							
CE	CE							
CF	CF							
CG	CG							
CH	CH							
CI	CI							
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Very briefly:

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ASIA/PACIFIC

Big-Thinking Chinese HDTV Maker Looks to U.S. Market

By Sharon R. King
New York Times Service

With ambitions that echo those of Japanese and South Korean manufacturers in earlier decades, Konka Group Co. of Shenzhen, China, is seeking to make the leap from a well-known brand at home to a global consumer electronics maker by grabbing a share of the U.S. market for television sets.

The American market is among the toughest in the world, but Konka is betting that it can compete by being among the first and the cheapest to offer the next generation of television sets: those that will offer the digitally improved picture and sound of high-definition television.

"They're trying to come up the food chain in terms of technology," said Jack Fensterstock, president of China Capital Corp., a venture-capital

firm in Bethesda, Maryland, that invests in Chinese companies but has not invested in Konka.

While it is too early to start talking about a "China Inc.," Konka's plans point to new ambitions among Chinese manufacturers. A slowdown at home after two decades of explosive growth, combined with fierce domestic competition, has forced Chinese companies to consider how to pursue growth in foreign markets more aggressively—even if it means going head to head against the world's leaders in technology and marketing.

Chinese manufacturers "really want to show that they've come a long way," Mr. Fensterstock said. "It's a national strategy to do this in China."

Wendy Wu, Konka's head of sales and marketing in the United States, said: "We think we are strong enough to come to this country. This

is the right time. We don't see the right time in another five years."

She added that other Chinese companies were tracking Konka's progress in the United States. "Everybody's watching us," she said.

But breaking into the \$8 billion U.S. television market will not be easy. Some 98 percent of American households already own at least one television set, and Konka must still enlist a major distributor to get its products into national chain stores if it is to compete with bigger and better-known manufacturers.

"Most Americans take their televisions very seriously," said Nick Donatelli, president and chief executive of Odyssey Group, a market-research firm in San Francisco.

"This is not a frivolous thing. Brand names matter a lot, and the top brands are very powerful. It's not enough to have your televisions

sitting in Good Guys or Circuit City," he said, referring to two of the major U.S. store chains.

Still, Konka's history fits a familiar pattern in consumer electronics. Like Matsushita Electric Industrial Co. of Japan, maker of the Panasonic brand, and LG Group of South Korea, maker of Goldstar, Konka began assembling electronics for foreign manufacturers drawn by cheap labor.

And as those Asian giants did, Konka is counting on taking a great leap forward in consumer electronics through technology.

Konka contends that high-definition television, still in its infancy, offers an opening for a newcomer. The sale of HDTV sets is but a trickle—fewer than 20,000 sets since their introduction in August—and programming is limited. Yet HDTV's bright, vivid picture and crystal-clear sound seduce more consumers,

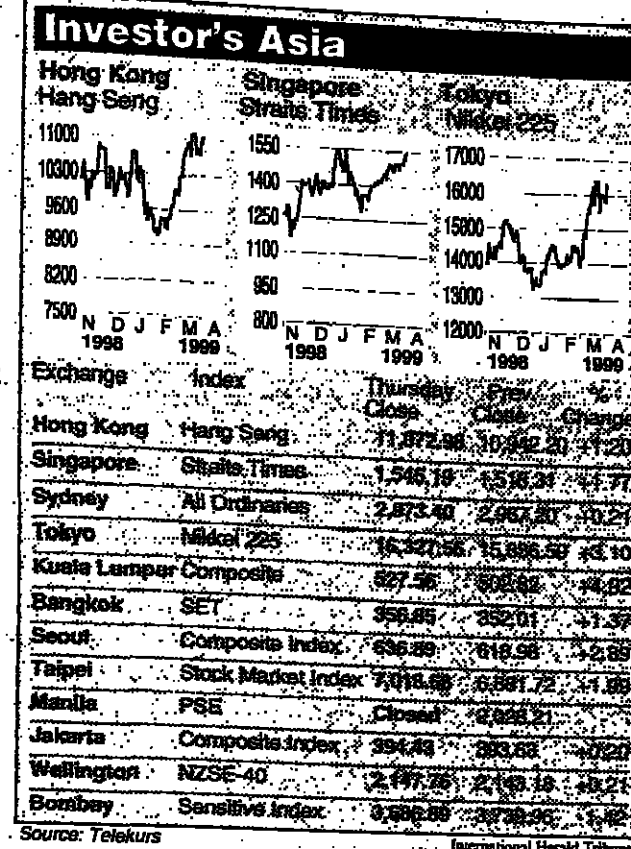
and as broadcasters step up their transition to digital programming, the potential is vast in a nation of 250 million conventional sets.

"We see the HDTV revolution as a great opportunity," Wei Rongchen, Konka's president, said in a phone interview from Hong Kong.

"As a new brand bringing in a new technology, we can deliver a message to the consumer that Konka is not just a common television manufacturer."

If Konka puts its sets on American shelves—no major regional or national retailer has so far agreed to carry them—many consumer electronics analysts expect its greatest selling point will be price.

Konka plans to introduce a \$3,000 32-inch-screen HDTV set this autumn. At the moment, that is less than half the price of sets with more familiar names, which are now selling for \$7,000 to \$8,000.



Very briefly:

- China's central bank gave two U.S. banks, Chase Manhattan Corp. and Bank of New York, permission to open branches in major cities.
- South Korea eased restrictions on foreign-exchange transactions to allow nonresident foreigners to engage freely in foreign-exchange transactions in the country, but it stopped short of making the won fully convertible.
- Japan opened a public debt-collection agency, Resolution & Collection Corp., that will play the central role in liquidating the financial system's bad debt.
- Computershare Ltd., which develops software for securities exchanges, will buy 15 percent of the Internet stockbroker E*Trade Australia Ltd. for 23.3 million Australian dollars (\$15 million).
- Gas Authority of India Ltd.'s profit rose 2 percent, to 10.20 billion rupees (\$24 million), in the year ended Wednesday.
- South Korea's trade surplus fell for a second straight month in March, to \$2.43 billion from \$3.7 billion a year earlier.
- New Zealand's government will proceed with plans to split Electricity Corp. into three competing businesses after Maori tribal interests dropped a legal challenge to the move.
- Vietnam's currency, the dong, is being prevented by a restrictive new trading band from gradually depreciating to realistic levels against the dollar, five foreign and local bankers said.

AP, AFP, Bloomberg, Reuters

Korean Bank GDRs Test Investor Interest

Bloomberg News

SEOUL — Shinhan Bank, one of South Korea's healthiest banks, plans to sell \$400 million of equity to foreign investors, the first big test of foreign portfolio managers' willingness to invest in Korean lenders.

The sale of global depositary receipts — the first by a Korean lender since the nation's banking system all but collapsed in late 1997, resulting in an international bailout — will be priced next week, bankers said Thursday.

The success of the transaction, which follows last week's well-received \$750 million GDR sale from Korea Electric Power Corp., will be a benchmark for other banks to raise money abroad to recapitalize, analysts said.

"This GDR deal will indicate how much interest there is from portfolio managers," said Anthony Lok, head of regional banking analysis at Nomura International Ltd. in Hong Kong.

A successful sale will especially help smaller, healthier banks look for money from foreign fund managers, he said.

Shinhan's management will be meeting with insurance companies, pension and mutual funds, and other money managers in the United States and Europe. The bank made presentations to investors in Asia last week, resulting in several multimillion dollar orders for the stock, bankers said.

S&P's Outlook on Malaysia Improves

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

KUALA LUMPUR — Malaysia's credit outlook was raised by Standard & Poor's Corp., which said the country's controls on the flow of funds had halted capital flight and eased the pressure on its shattered financial system.

S&P raised its outlook to "stable" from "negative" while affirming its BBB-minus sovereign foreign-currency rating for Malaysia.

The New York-based credit-rating concern said exchange controls had strengthened the country's reserves. With the improved outlook, the risk that Malaysia's credit rating will be pushed to "junk" status is reduced.

Malaysia has S&P's lowest investment-grade rating.

Investors drove Malaysia's benchmark share-price index up 4.9 percent Thursday. Many analysts said the

worst was over for the economy, but they added that more work was needed to restructure banks.

"Investors are separating the noise from the numbers, and the numbers look good," said Ann Ginsburg, senior Asia fixed-income strategist at Morgan Stanley in Hong Kong.

The Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange Composite Index gained 24.74 points to close at 527.56.

"People are realizing that Malaysia isn't nuts," said John Sevilla, analyst at Salomon Smith Barney in Hong Kong, an adviser to the Malaysian government. "A lot of very dire predictions simply didn't happen."

The higher rating outlook may make it cheaper for Malaysia to borrow to fix its banking industry. Malaysia has said it needs about 60

billion ringgit (\$15.7 billion) to recapitalize banks and revitalize the economy.

"The risk that capital controls would be followed by imprudent credit policies has abated," S&P said. "The

government's success in managing inflation expectations points to a further easing of interest rates, which in turn could reduce pressures on financial-system asset quality." (Bloomberg, Reuters)

CAPITAL INTERNATIONAL FUND

Société d'Investissement à Capital Variable
Luxembourg, 5, boulevard de la Foire
R.C. Luxembourg N° B 8.833

DIVIDEND NOTICE

At the Annual General Meeting held on March 30, 1999, it was decided to pay a dividend of USD 0.77 (seventy-seven cents) per share on or after April 7, 1999 to shareholders of record on March 29, 1999 and to holders of bearer shares upon presentation of coupon nr 30. The ex-dividend date is March 30, 1999.

Paying Agent: CHASE MANHATTAN BANK (LUXEMBOURG) S.A.
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April 1, 1999
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WORLD ROUNDUP

Torch Relay Drops Olympic Official

OLYMPICS Phil Coles, the embattled Australian International Olympic Committee member, was dismissed Thursday as chairman of the Torch Relay Committee by the Sydney Olympic Committee.

Michael Knight, the Australian Olympics minister who recommended his removal, said the IOC investigation of Coles's dealings with Salt Lake City's bid for the winter Games had made the change necessary.

Coles said: "It's the worst possible hit I could have had. All I wanted to do was contribute to the Games being a success and particularly the torch relay. Apparently everyone knew this was one way of hurting me, and I must say they've been successful." (AP)

Pakistan Fans Flood India

CRICKET Some 1,000 Pakistani fans traveled to India on Thursday to cheer their national team in its one-day match against India in Mohali, Punjab. Indian authorities issued visas for the fans and arranged transport and lodging. Pakistan won the match by seven wickets. Both teams had already qualified for the final of the triangular event. (Reuters)

Harrick Joins Georgia

BASKETBALL Jim Harrick, the Rhode Island coach, was hired as coach at Georgia, completing his comeback from a recruiting scandal that led to his firing at UCLA three years ago. (AP)

Norm Stewart, 64, retired as Missouri basketball coach Thursday after 32 years. Stewart, known as Stormin' Norman, was third on the list of most-winning active coaches, with 731 victories. (AP)

U.S. Hurdler Suspended

TRACK AND FIELD Bryan Bronson, the U.S. champion and the world's leading 400-meter hurdler, has been suspended by U.S.A. Track and Field following the investigation of a positive test for steroids in Rome on July 14, 1998. (Reuters)

Indonesian Fans Killed

SOCCER Six Indonesian fans were killed in Jakarta on Thursday when they were hit by a train while fleeing police. The fans, from the Javanese city of Semarang, were among dozens who escaped after being arrested when they arrived at the central railway station. Their team is playing in the Indonesian League finals. (Reuters)

Red Wings Win, But Their Rivals Keep Up Pace

The Associated Press

The Detroit Red Wings look ready to defend their Stanley Cup championship. But the way the Dallas Stars and Colorado Avalanche are playing, it won't be easy.

With the playoffs starting in three weeks, the Red Wings, Stars and Avalanche all extended recent streaks with

NHL Roundup

victories Wednesday night. It was the fourth straight victory for the Red Wings. Dallas has won five of six, and Colorado is unbeaten in five games.

Red Wings 2, Kings 1 Todd Gill scored in his first game in two months, and Sergei Fedorov also scored as the Red Wings beat Los Angeles in Detroit and moved nine points ahead of St. Louis in the Central Division race. The Red Wings' winning streak follows the arrival of Chris Chelios and Wendel Clark in trades last week.

Stars 5, Lightning 4 Joe Nieuwendyk scored the tie-breaking goal midway through the third period as the Stars beat Tampa Bay in Dallas. Stephane Richer scored twice for Tampa Bay, tying the game at 4-4 at 7:14 of the third period with his 10th goal. Nieuwendyk responded at 11:10 with his 24th.

Avalanche 3, Sharks 2 Chris Drury scored a key second-period goal as Colorado won in San Jose. Drury scored at 14:40 of the second period to give the Avalanche a 3-1 lead and their eventual winning goal. Drury has 41 points and is the most productive rookie scorer in the NHL.

Devils 7, Mighty Ducks 1 Vadim Shari-fanov scored twice as New Jersey matched its season high for goals and handed visiting Anaheim its worst loss of the season. The Devils' victory, coupled with Florida's loss, clinched a playoff spot for New Jersey.

Islanders 5, Panthers 3 Mariusz Czerkawski scored a pair of goals, including the game winner, as New York won in Florida.

Blackhawks 2, Sabres 1 Bob Probert and Dave Manson scored against Dominik Hasek as Chicago beat visiting Buffalo.

Maple Leafs 5, Canucks 5 Yanic Perreault scored two goals and added an assist as Toronto took over fourth place in the Eastern Conference with a victory in Vancouver.



Daniel Baal talking to the press as he arrived at a Lille police station.

French Cycling Chief Faces Doping Probe

LILLE, France—The drug scandal in professional bicycle racing erupted on two fronts Thursday as the head of the French Cycling Federation was placed under formal investigation and a race in Belgium was stopped so that the police could take away for questioning officials and riders of Mapei, the world's top-ranked team.

The Mapei riders and management were cleared of doping allegations, a Belgian public prosecutor said. But an Italian masseur with the Italian-Belgian team remained in custody in connection with the discovery of five flasks of amphetamines which had been mailed from the riders' hotel to Italy.

The prosecutor, Louis Denecker, alleged that the masseur had tried to send the amphetamines to a compatriot who once had ties with Mapei. He refused to

give further details. The Mapei riders were taking part in the Three Days of La Panne race, which was stopped by the police two kilometers into its final stage.

In Lille, Daniel Baal, the head of the French Cycling Federation, was accused of "complicity to facilitate and incite doping," his lawyer, Paul Mauriac, said. Baal, who insisted that he has always tried to prevent doping, said he was "shocked" by an "unjust" decision.

The announcement was made after he was questioned Thursday in the northern city by magistrate Patrick Keil, who is leading the investigation that began last July and nearly caused the cancellation of the Tour de France, the sport's most prestigious race. The scandal is known as the Festina affair because the Festina team, then No. 1 in the sport, was expelled from the Tour after its officials

admitted the systematic use of illegal performance-enhancing drugs.

Keil is gradually moving up the sport's hierarchy in his investigation. This week, Roger Legeay, president of the professional cycling league and Baal's deputy at the federation, and Richard Virenque, the former leader of the Festina team, were both placed under formal investigation.

A dozen others, including officials, riders and doctors, also have been placed under formal investigation, which is a step short of being charged.

Jean-Marie Leblanc, the director of the Tour de France, also was questioned Thursday in Lille. As he left the courthouse, Leblanc said he had not been charged. He said the judge had "declared himself satisfied with the replies I had given. As a consequence, I have not been put under formal investigation.

And now it's back to work."

The Mapei riders in the La Panne race included Michele Bartoli, ranked No. 1 among the world professionals, Johan Museeuw, a former world road race champion, and Tom Steels, the Belgian champion.

The team's hotel was searched and sealed off, and Belgian VTM television said the riders had been taken to the courthouse for further questioning after initial questioning near the race site. The team's director sportif, Patrick Lefevre, a Belgian, and two other team officials also were questioned.

Denecker, the prosecutor, said police had planned to intervene after the race but changed their minds and stopped the race after news of the inquiry appeared Thursday in Het Laatste Nieuws newspaper. (AP, AFP, Reuters)

When War and Sports Cannot Be Separated

Yugoslav Players Protest NATO Raids

By Christopher Clarey
International Herald Tribune

SEVILLE, Spain—In this Andalusian city, the basketball star Sasa Djordjevic played a game Sunday with a black band around his arm and a rectangular piece of cloth covering his name on the back of his jersey.

Then on Wednesday, Djordjevic held up a sign, saying "Stop the War" after his team, Barcelona, won the final of Korac Cup, a European club tournament.

In Madrid, a soccer star, Predrag Mijatovic, marched outside the U.S. Embassy, wrapped in a Yugoslav flag.

In Japan, Mijatovic's World Cup teammate Dragan Stokjovic lifted up his jersey after each goal scored by his Nagoya teammates to show a T-shirt that read, "NATO Stop Strikes."

In South Korea on Thursday, Sasa Drakulic did the same thing—revealing the words "NATO stop assault!"—after he scored the winning goal for Suwon Samsung. "I have spent sleepless nights thinking about my family," said Drakulic, one of six Yugoslav professionals in South Korea.

"I have been calling home every day but since March 28, I have not been able to get through," he said.

Sinisa Mihajlovic, a defender for Lazio of Rome, met an Italian government official on Thursday to talk about the air strikes against Yugoslavia.

"He expressed his pain and talked to me about the condition of his people," said Marco Minniti, a top official in the premier's office.

Mihajlovic's parents and brother live in Novi Sad, in northern Serbia, where a major bridge was knocked out by NATO missiles Thursday morning.

It has been a week for gestures of symbolism and commiseration from Yugoslav athletes who earn their livings in various sports and time zones. It has also been a week for strong words as the NATO air strikes continue.

Mijatovic, one of the most prominent players on the reigning European club soccer champion, Real Madrid, said of NATO forces that "they are playing at war, just as if they were pushing the buttons of a Play Station." He also chastised American leaders for a lack of historical perspective, saying that "when there were wars in Kosovo during the Ottoman Empire 600 years ago, the U.S.A. did not exist."

Predrag Danilovic, a former member of the National Basketball Association's Miami Heat who now stars for Kinder Bologna in Italy, issued a statement distributed by the Yugoslav Basketball Federation.

It read, in part: "It is very hard to be a Serbian athlete in the world which is dictated by America, in which history and tradition do not have the real meaning, but I am extremely proud to be a Serbian athlete. I appeal to all basketball federations to help one strong basketball nation who defended itself during the whole history and never wanted to have anything that did not belong to it. Now, Americans and Albanians want something that does not belong to them."

Yugoslav athletes have grown accus-

tomed to geopolitics having a negative impact on their sporting careers. After Croatia and Slovenia declared independence in 1991 and the conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina began, athletes from what was left of Yugoslavia were excluded from major international competitions for nearly four years because sports federations chose to respect sanctions imposed by the United Nations.

The Yugoslav soccer team, one of the world's best, had to leave the 1992 European championships in Sweden before they began, and then missed the 1994 World Cup finals in the United States and the 1996 European championships in Britain. The Yugoslav men's basketball team, which included the NBA stalwart Vlade Divac, was forced to miss the 1992 Olympic Games in Barcelona, Spain, and the 1994 world championships.

But after UN sanctions were provisionally lifted in October 1994, the Yugoslav teams were quickly reintegrated into the sports community, and at the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta, Divac, Danilovic, Djordjevic and their teammates lost to the United States in a competitive gold-medal basketball game. Last year, the Yugoslavs won the world basketball title, and the men's soccer team reached the second round of the World Cup in France.

Scores of Yugoslav athletes earn their livings in Western Europe, including Mijatovic, who comes from the Yugoslav republic of Montenegro and who has helped orchestrate a strike by Yugoslav players who are under contract with clubs in NATO countries.

"I could not wear the jersey of Real Madrid knowing that my parents are sleeping in a garage," said Mijatovic, who said he does not intend to play until the bombing stops.

According to the Yugoslav soccer federation, the idea did not come from the government, as had been reported, but from Mijatovic, Stokjovic and the former AC Milan star Dejan Savicevic, now with the Belgrade club Red Star.

But several Yugoslav players, including Sasa Ilic, a goaltender with Charlton in England's top division, said they would still make themselves available for their clubs' coming games. In a statement released Wednesday, the Australian-born Ilic explained that though he supported his fellow Yugoslavs' decision not to play, he believes he "will make a greater contribution by remaining in the public eye."

When NATO announced that bombing would begin, Mijatovic and other national team members were in Yugoslavia to prepare for a match against Croatia, part of the qualifying process for the 2000 European championships. That game was soon canceled, along with most commercial flights out of the country, and many of the players, including Mijatovic, had to cross into neighboring Hungary by car to return to their foreign clubs.

Vladan Lukic, a striker with FC Metz in the French first division, was preparing to make the journey in reverse. On Monday, he was given indefinite leave by his club to return to Yugoslavia. "When I'm in Serbia, I'll do the same thing as all my compatriots: I will put myself at the service of my government and do what they ask," Lukic told the French sports daily L'Equipe. "Serbia is not the aggressor; it is the victim, and it never has been and never will be occupied. Nobody will change our borders against our will."

After his return to Madrid, Mijatovic took part in a protest in front of the U.S. Embassy with several other prominent Yugoslav players based in Spain. Other Yugoslav soccer players participated in protests outside the U.S. Consulate in Barcelona and the U.S. Embassy in Lisbon. On Wednesday, Yugoslavs who play for Portuguese first-division clubs sent a letter to President Jorge Sampaio of Portugal asking for an end to the country's participation in the NATO air strikes.

In the United States, Predrag Radosavljevic, a Yugoslavia-born midfielder with Kansas City in Major League Soccer who is known as Preki and who is now an American citizen, said, "The situation is affecting me a great deal."

Preki, whose parents and sister still live in Belgrade, said: "Serbia will never give up that part of the country. Historically, that's always been ours, so why should we give it up? We're basically allowing terrorists to take part of the country away. Can you imagine if Miami wanted to be part of Cuba? What would the U.S. government do?"



Juha Reini of Finland, center, fighting a losing battle for a header with three German players: Oliver Bierhoff, left, Christian Woerns, center, and Carsten Janker. Finland lost, 2-0, in the Group Three match.

In Euro Games, Goals Are the Currency

International Herald Tribune

LONDON—The finest finishers of their day are often struck close to dumb when it comes to explaining what they do.

On Wednesday, in qualifying for the European championships, a young Spanish soccer star scored his seventh goal in two games against Austria and San Marino—more than double his tally in 20 previous Spanish internationals.

"When they go in, they go in, don't they?" Was all Raul Gonzales could say.

Gerd Muller, who 20 years ago was the most instinctive soccer striker of all, wracked his brain for some words to describe the habit of arriving in the right place at the exact moment of opportunity.

"Something inside my head said 'Gerd, go this way. Gerd go that,' and I go."

Raul is 21, as slender as a reed, quick of mind and eye and movement, but his nature is mercurial. From adolescence, people were prophesying that was the chosen one. Sometimes he looks the part, sometimes he frustrates. Now, of course, they are shouting that the Madrid forward will, like the little white bull, be the best in Spain.

Ask an Austrian, ask the half a dozen bemused waiters who double as San Marino defenders, and they might agree. But ask Javier Clemente, forced to quit as Spain's national coach because the team collectively, and Raul individually, did not deliver on a consistent basis, and he will reply that even when the talent is there, the sense of purpose sometimes betrays it.

Raul scored four goals to help Spain destroy Austria, 9-0, and, almost to be expected, followed that performance with a hat trick in the 6-0 victory in San Marino on Wednesday. His milestone was witnessed by just 1,500 paying customers.

Most Italians, which in all honesty is what the San Marino players are, were not interested in praising a Spaniard but

European Soccer/Rob Hughes

in howling criticism at their true team—the Azzurri—which failed to beat Belarus before 23,000 fans in Ancona. Italy drew, 1-1, thanks to a penalty scored by Filippo Inzaghi, and to a brace of athletic saves from goalie Gianluigi Buffon.

What made it worse was that Belarus outplayed Italy—and Belarus is barely out of winter hibernation and was handicapped by the absence of five key players.

Dynamo Romashchenko was the dynamic force for the former Soviet republic, and it was his cross that confounded the veteran Paolo Maldini and invited Valentin Belkevich to score the Belarus goal, a sharp, short, rasping volley.

Like the great goalscorers, Dino Zoff, a goalkeeper-turned-coach for Italy, had little to say. "I can only point out what didn't go right," he said. "It's difficult to say why." Italy, after three victories and a draw, remains on top of Group One, but the media vented typical spleen.

"Our team was like a procession of snails," scoffed the newspaper Corriere dello Sport on Thursday.

The French like snails. In Group Four, which is the toughest in Europe, goals from Sylvain Wiltord and Christophe Dugary gave the world champions a comfortable victory over Armenia in front of 78,852 in St. Denis.

Ukraine, the group leader, allowed the disciplined, energetic Icelandic team to earn a 1-1 draw in Kiev. Not unlike the Italians, the excuse for underachieving was a shrug suggesting that athletes should not be expected to perform at their peak twice in one week.

The Germans, as ever, were able to do that. Following a 3-0 victory in Northern Ireland over the weekend, the new German formation—three in defense, four across midfield and three in attack—beat Finland, whose robust challenge in

Nuremberg was punctured by two goals in six minutes before half time. Jens Jeremies scored the first after a surging run and shot from midfield. A new striker, Oliver Neuville, scored the second from much closer range.

One goal sufficed to put Sweden clear of Poland and England in Group Five. Ten years ago, the Swedes triumphed in Chorzow when a solo goal from Johnny Ekstrom silenced the Polish fans; Wednesday's soloist was Fredrik Ljungberg. In the 36th minute, he strode past his opponent on the left and fired the ball through the legs of goalkeeper Kazimierz Sidorczuk. "I had a bit of luck," said Ljungberg. "I mean, you don't try to put it between the keeper's legs. Still, it was an important goal."

INDEED it was, and Sweden, having missed the 1998 World Cup, is ascendant because of it. The Polish fans, meanwhile, fought out their annoyance among themselves, obliging the now familiar police baton charges.

Scotland's masses were none too pleased as their team lost, 2-1, in Glasgow to the revived Czech Republic. Indeed, the "Tartan Army" invited this first competitive home defeat in 12 years. First they ignorantly booed the Czech anthem, too boorish to appreciate that this might provoke proud men to play harder. Then the fans jeered Gary McAllister, their captain who is trying to recapture his old form after career-threatening injury.

Those with the loudest voices in Scotland need to pause and to acknowledge that in Vladimír Smicer, the Czech Republic's Lens-based striker, the opposition had the most decisive finisher on the night. And that, as Raul followers can testify seven times over, is something that shouts louder than any words.

Rob Hughes is chief sports writer of The Times of London.

Tough Test for U.S. Davis Cup Team in U.K.

By Robin Finn
New York Times Service

They are not panicking yet, but the 1999 U.S. Davis Cup squad, which faces the British team of Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski in the first round this weekend in Birmingham, England, is playing for more than pride.

At stake is the honor of advancing to the quarterfinal and a prearranged Davis Cup centenary celebration at the Longwood Cricket Club in Boston, site of the first Davis Cup competition in 1900.

If the United States is defeated by Britain, it faces the threat of demotion from the World Group that will contend for the cup in 2000.

"I don't think anybody can say they want to play a relegation-round match instead of a quarterfinal this July in

Boston," said Tom Gullikson, who is entering his sixth and stormiest season as U.S. Davis Cup captain.

Gullikson has praised the camaraderie of the 1999 team—Todd Martin, Jim Courier, Jan-Michael Gambill and the doubles specialist Alex O'Brien—but he admitted Wednesday the dual defeat of Pete Sampras and Andre Agassi, who announced in March that he would never play Davis Cup again, remains a disheartening liability.

"I'd be lying if I said I was totally happy that those two guys aren't here on our team," Gullikson said.

He has been criticized for his apparent inability to convince Sampras and Agassi that the Davis Cup, particularly in this historic year, is worth their while. "It wasn't for lack of trying," he said. "In the end, it's up to the

players to deliver themselves to us. Recruiting shouldn't be such a major issue. It's only in our country that it is."

Courier was paired against Henman in the opening singles Friday when the draw was made Thursday in Birmingham, England, The Associated Press reported.

Courier will team up with Alex O'Brien in Saturday's doubles against the British pair and on Sunday, it's Martin against Henman followed by Courier against Rusedski.

Stefano Pescosolido joined the Italian squad Thursday to face Switzerland in a Davis Cup first-round tie. Reuters reported from Rome. Pescosolido replaces doubles expert Diego Nargiso, who was suffering from flu. Italy is already without its number one player, Andrea Gaudenzi, who is injured.



Barcelona's Sasa Djordjevic protesting the NATO raids after his team played on Wednesday.

Various advertisements on the right margin, including one for "Hazard's Work" and "Pic on Orlando".

SPORTS

Wizards Work
Magic on Orlando

The Associated Press
The Washington Wizards made the Orlando Magic's offense disappear.

Juan Howard scored 20 points, and Washington used a record-setting defensive

performance to beat visiting Orlando 84-73 Wednesday night.

"It was a gutsy effort on our part," said Mitch Richmond, who scored 16 points for Washington.

Terry Davis provided an offensive and defensive spark for the Wizards. He was 6-for-6 from the field, and matched his season-high with 12 points, including 6 during an 8-0 first-quarter run that gave the Wizards the lead for good. Davis also drew four ejections, giving him a team-leading 19 this season. Darrell Armstrong scored 15 points for Orlando, which shot only 37 percent from the field.

The Magic lost leading scorer Nick Anderson in the first half with a strained hamstring. Anderson, averaging 16.5 points, is listed as day-to-day.

Pistons 87, Celtics 72 Lindsey Hunter scored 17 points as Detroit won in Boston.

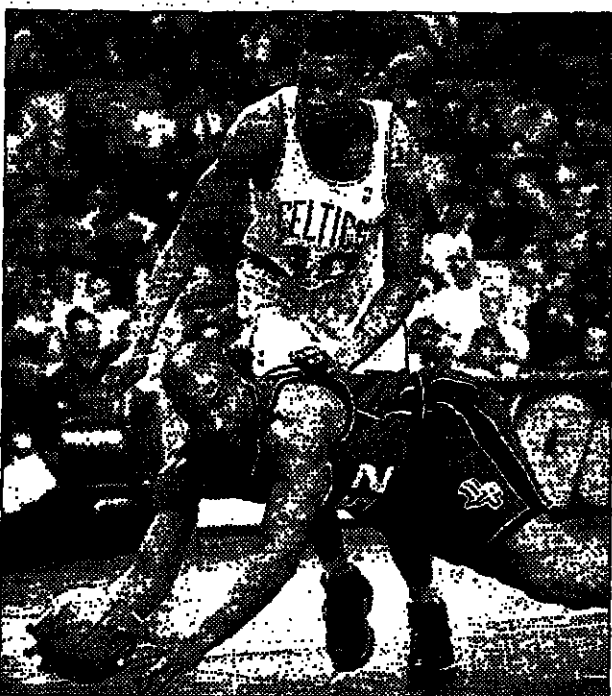
Grant Hill added 16 points and 11 rebounds, while Bison Dele scored 14 points for the Pistons.

Bucks 102, Hornets 94 Ray Allen scored 20 points as Milwaukee opened a four-game road trip by shooting a season-high 61 percent from the field.

Dele Curry, a former Charlotte guard, added 18 points for the Bucks, who were 7-for-14 from 3-point range.

Reserve guard Eldridge Recasner had a career-high 26 points for the Hornets, who got just 48 points from their starters.

Suns 83, Warriors 78 Tom Gugliotta had 21 points and 11 rebounds as Phoenix won



Don Reid diving for a loose ball in front of Boston's Tony Battie during the Pistons' 87-72 victory over the Celtics.

at home to snap a three-game losing streak.

Jason Kidd had 14 points, seven rebounds, eight assists and six of the Suns' 16 steals.

Trail Blazers 100, Kings 85 Damon Stoudamire scored nine of his 21 points in the

fourth quarter as the Trail Blazers won in Portland to improve their NBA-best record to 24-6.

Brian Grant and Greg Anthony each added 16 points for the Blazers, who were coming off a loss to Golden State.

Watching for Jordan's Next Move

By Mike Wise
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Michael. The mere mention of the name conjures up a kaleidoscope of images and a lifetime of memories. Having conquered the basketball universe, where does the next challenge lie for the world's most prominent athlete?

The back nine? Corporate America? Owner of a National Basketball Association franchise? Or will Michael Jordan come out of retirement at age 36?

While returning to the NBA may not be a priority for Jordan — the league prohibits owners from being players — the possibility of obtaining a controlling interest of a franchise is on Jordan's mind.

Jordan has had preliminary discussions with the NBA commissioner, David Stern, and the Charlotte Hornets owner George Shinn about buying 50 percent of the team. Apparently realizing Jordan cannot save the league on the floor anymore, Stern has enlisted Jordan to help resuscitate a troubled franchise in his home state of North Carolina.

Estimates of the team's value range from \$100 million to \$150 million.

Stern and Shinn, according to league and team officials, are the driving forces behind Jordan's involvement. Stern would not only delight in becoming the first commissioner to help award a former

player a significant portion of a franchise, but he could also reduce the impact of Shinn's tarnished reputation. The owner has been named in a civil suit by a woman alleging sexual misconduct.

Recently, two former players have been part owners of teams: Earvin (Magic) Johnson, vice president with the Los Angeles Lakers, and Isiah Thomas, the former general manager of the Toronto Raptors and a current NBC analyst.

Just like with Magic, Bird or myself, I think Jordan should always have a connection to the NBA," Thomas said Wednesday. "It just makes sense, business-wise, and in other ways. For Jordan to have no connection to the league would be a crime."

Thomas said that Stern and the deputy commissioner, Russ Granik, "are both genuinely interested in seeing minorities own or be a part of franchise."

Buck Williams, the former president of the players association and a 17-year veteran, has expressed interest in ownership with Jordan.

"With Michael talking about 50 percent, that's pretty much a monumental position," Williams said. "What Michael could do is grow the team and grow the revenues. He could be the driving force behind a new arena. He can use his status to encourage and help the growth of the team."

Jordan, who grew up in Wilmington, North Carolina, and starred at the University of North Carolina, said staying involved in the NBA would be a "fulfilling personal and business challenge."

Earlier this year, Jordan pronounced himself "99.9 percent" retired. He confirmed on Monday his interest in owning half the team. "At this stage," he said, "the discussions are very preliminary."

Jordan is on vacation in the Bahamas, but is expected to renew talks when he returns, a team official said.

Johnson bought 5 percent of the team from the Lakers' owner, Jerry Buss, after his retirement in 1991. He sold the shares back to Buss after ill-fated comeback attempts and eventually required the 5 percent, which he still holds.

Thomas owned as much as 9 percent of the Raptors and sat on the team's board of directors until two years ago. But disagreements with the former majority owner, Allan Slaight, over financial matters, relating to the building of a new arena forced him to resign and have the team buy out his portion.

"It's a great fit in many ways, but I would caution Jordan to be careful who you're partners with," Thomas said, referring to Shinn.

Responding to a report by Fox Sports that Jordan would return to the NBA with the Hornets, David Falk, Jordan's agent, said Wednesday, "There's absolutely no truth to it."

SCOREBOARD

BASEBALL

EXHIBITION BASEBALL

WEDNESDAY RESULTS
Houston 6, Los Angeles 4
Tampa Bay 15, Cleveland 1
Toronto 6, New York Yankees 3
Texas 11, Minnesota 4
Kansas City 7, New York Mets 4
Detroit 7, Atlanta 1
Boston 4, Pittsburgh 4
St. Louis 4, Montreal 3
Philadelphia 10, Cincinnati 4
San Diego 17, Oakland 3
Seattle 16, Milwaukee 6
Chicago Cubs 15, San Diego 6
Colorado 4, Arizona 3
Baltimore 2, Florida 2, No. 12 Indians

BASKETBALL

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE
ATLANTIC DIVISION
Orlando 22 10 .688
Miami 19 13 .594
New York 17 14 .548
Philadelphia 15 16 .481
Washington 13 17 .438
Boston 10 19 .345
New Jersey 5 24 .172
CENTRAL DIVISION
Indiana 20 10 .667
Detroit 19 12 .613
Milwaukee 18 13 .579
Toronto 15 16 .481
Cleveland 14 17 .450
Charlotte 12 17 .414
Chicago 9 21 .300
WESTERN CONFERENCE
NORTHWEST DIVISION
Utah 21 8 .724
Portland 22 10 .688
Seattle 20 12 .625
Vancouver 19 13 .594
MINNESOTA 17 13 .563
DENVER 10 22 .313
SAN ANTONIO 8 24 .250
MEMPHIS 5 26 .155

ICE HOCKEY

NHL STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE
ATLANTIC DIVISION
New York 40 22 11 .917
Philadelphia 36 25 13 .850
Pittsburgh 33 28 14 .773
Washington 31 30 12 .722
New Jersey 21 45 9 .317
NORTH DIVISION
Boston 42 21 10 .942
Toronto 39 24 11 .864
Montreal 35 25 13 .800
Ottawa 32 28 14 .750
Buffalo 22 35 15 .611
Carolina 22 38 16 .556
Florida 22 38 16 .556
Tampa Bay 17 50 6 .409
WESTERN CONFERENCE
CENTRAL DIVISION
Detroit 38 30 6 .822
St. Louis 31 31 11 .739
Chicago 23 40 12 .597
NORTHWEST DIVISION
Colorado 39 26 10 .889
Dallas 36 34 12 .818
Edmonton 28 31 17 .700
Vancouver 22 41 11 .556
PACIFIC DIVISION
Los Angeles 47 15 12 .967
San Jose 37 24 12 .850
San Diego 36 24 12 .800
Phoenix 33 24 12 .773
Anaheim 28 34 12 .700
Calgary 27 30 17 .717
Los Angeles 28 41 11 .619

CRICKET

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THURSDAY IN MOHALL, INDIA
India 196 in 49.5 overs
Pakistan won by seven wickets and needs India in series first on April 4. Sri Lanka finished first.

SOCCER

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP

QUALIFYING ROUND
Switzerland 2, Wales 0
Poland 1, Belarus 1
STANDINGS: Italy 10 points; Switzerland 7; Wales & Denmark 2; Belarus 2.
GROUP 2
Slovakia vs. Albania postponed
Latvia & Greece 0
STANDINGS: Latvia 3 points; Norway 2; Greece & Slovenia & Georgia & Armenia 2.
GROUP 3
Germany 2, Finland 0

TRANSITIONS

BASEBALL

ATLANTA — Released RHP John Wozniak to Pittsburgh, IL, and 3B Wilson Verso to Toronto, IL.
CHICAGO — Released RHP Jason Olson, LHP Scott Evers and RHP Chad Bradford to Charlotte, IL. Returned OF Tyrone Pendragon to Atlanta.
PITTSBURGH — Released INF Rafael

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DENNIS THE MENACE



"HE WAN I FIGURE IT, HE WAN A PLACE WHERE THERE'S NO SORT OF VEGETABLES, OR CORNERS TO SIT IN."

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GOUBS

POSOV

CHELEK

TEEBEL

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WOW! GREAT COMEBACK, CHUCK!

IT WASN'T A COMEBACK. THE GAME WAS CALLED OFF.

FOR YOU THAT'S A COMEBACK, CHUCK! HA! HA! HA!

BET HE ENJOYS YOUR CALLS, SIR.

THE LONGER YOU WAIT FOR THE MAIL, THE LESS THERE IS IN IT.

WIZARD OF ID

OUR STEEPLE IS TALLER THAN YOUR STEEPLE.

WHATEVER.

NEVER ARGUE RELIGION...

NON SEQUITUR

MY GUESS IS, THE WORLD HAS LOST ANOTHER TELEMARKETER...

DOONESBURY FLASHBACKS

COACH, I DON'T HAVE TO TELL YOU YOU'RE A MAN OF MANY TALENTS...

THE AMAZING THING IS YOU DID IT WITH THE SAME OLD MANAGER AND THE SAME OLD TEAM...

TWO FOUR, SIX, EIGHT! AND DO ME APPRECIATE!

HEE, HEE, THOSE GITS...

COACH, HE'S COACHING ME! COACH, HE'S COACHING ME!

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POSTCARD

Dining in the Deep

By Deborah Sontag
New York Times Service

EILAT, Israel — The Red Sea Star Restaurant began with an underwater vision and ended up a vision underwater: a whimsical restaurant deep in the Gulf of Eilat, where diners devour fish platters under the scrutiny of fish peering in at them through portholes.

Ayala Serfaty, the restaurant's designer, was four months pregnant and snorkeling in the Red Sea off Egypt when the concept came to her. If the reef were soft, she thought, and you could float weightlessly inside it, it would be just like a womb.

"Of course, it sounds totally weird now, but I knew then that I wanted to create an underwater environment," said Serfaty, who works in Tel Aviv. "I wanted to create an interior space that would merge with the sea, where the light and color and language of shapes would play together in a kind of Ping-Pong."

From this lofty vision came the down-to-earth, or rather, submerged, reality: a new tourist attraction in Eilat, a city that, aesthetically, is a sort of Israeli Las Vegas, without the gambling. The offshore decor is already attracting attention from design aficionados in the United States and Europe.

The canopied entrance to the restaurant sits at the end of a long pier jutting into the Gulf of Eilat. Diners descend in an elevator to a depth of 20 feet (6 meters) beneath the sea. The elevator doors open into a kind of reverse aquarium. Outside the portholes, school after school of exotic fish glides by, dipping in and out of the coral gardens that wrap around the restaurant. Overhead, the sea

washes over the skylights, making it abundantly — and dizzyingly — clear that one is submerged.

Serfaty said she sought to insure a feeling of equilibrium underwater by designing wavy window frames and tables that reflect the rippling water outside. Still, some visitors complain at first of seasickness and need a period of acclimatization.

"I'll just hold off on the food for a bit, if you don't mind terribly," a visitor told the waitress as she handed him a menu.

The project began with another diver's dream. Ami Ben Zvi, who owns a diving school in Eilat, collaborated with an architect, Sefi Kiryati, and a marine engineer, Moshe Drimmer, to form the structure. Made of metal, it was sunk on a concrete base into the sea floor.

The sea life there had died long before, killed by sewage and overdevelopment. Doron Kairi, a marine-life expert, was hired to reconstruct a reef under the supervision of the Israeli Nature Reserve. Four years ago, he began transplanting fragments of living coral from dying beds in the bay. Once the habitat was recreated, the fish followed — butterfly fish, triggerfish, parrotfish, bluefish and more.

A couple of years after her snorkeling epiphany, Serfaty heard about the sinking of the structure on the radio. A painter and sculptor by training, she was already designing and making aquatically inspired furniture and lighting at her Tel Aviv workshop, home to Aqua Creations, the company she runs with her husband, Albi. Serfaty put her fantasies on paper, bid on the project and won the contract.

Julien Clerc: A Blue-Chip French Chansonnier

By Mike Zwerin
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — Years ago, after a woman he loved had left him, the young star chansonnier Julien Clerc was moping in a Parisian club. His good friend the American singer-songwriter and French star Mort Shuman came over and gave him some positive advice he has never forgotten: "Hey baby. Stay where you belong. Stay at the top."

The way Clerc understood it, Shuman meant he should buck up, get happy, give his public what it wanted. What it did not want from him was unhappiness. He'd rather smile than moan anyway.

He started in the Parisian production of "Hair." His first hit single, "La Cavalerie," lyrics by Etienne Roda-Gil, included the line: "I'll abolish boredom." He was known as a "chanteur de charme," an "artiste" for the ladies. Daniel Filipacchi and Frank Tenot, publishers of the popular rock magazine "Salut les Copains," took the charismatic 21-year-old under their wing. On their way to becoming global media giants (Paris Match, Photo, Elle, Pariscap, George), they saw his potential. "My fan base renews itself," Clerc says. "The mothers who were fans bring their daughters."

He is 51 now, and his first tour of the United States begins April 20 in Denver. Once he spent a week in Stephen Stills' chateau nearby when the American rock star married the French singer Veronique Sanson. But that's about the limit of his direct American experience. In May the tour continues in Asia.

He is extremely French, in the most worldly of ways. His background is multicultural and his music expresses that. Lovingly, Clerc describes his father, a Catholic from the provinces, as "very bourgeois." He was a Bonapartist. Clerc says, "and so becoming a Gaullist was quite natural for him. My mother was from Guadeloupe, and her father was a black, work-

ing-class communist."

After his mother and father separated, he split his time between them, going back and forth between cultures: from a tony southern Parisian suburb to a working-class district of Montparnasse. "De Gaulle was in one house," he says, "and Marx in the other." He remembers a childhood rich in love and understanding. He studied classical piano. He smiles with pride about being an octocorner.

Julien Clerc is a going, blue-chip French concern on a level with Charles Aznavour, Catherine Deneuve and Gerard Depardieu. Of the three serious women in his life, the first two were the film stars France Gall and Mimi Mami. (He is married now to Virginie, a professional horsewoman.) After giving it careful thought, he describes himself as being "part of the musical memory of my country. I guess I can say that by now. I have come to represent a part of the French consciousness."

His credentials were impressive enough to be invited to dine with President Francois Mitterrand in the Elysee Palace. (And to perform there.) Mitterrand, says Clerc, "liked to have artists and beautiful women and people who made him laugh" at his table. "I felt very relaxed and free with him. I could say what I really felt about things. He liked that. I didn't want to be like a courtier so I avoided initiating contact. But he came to see me perform and he sent me little notes. And only then I would invite him to dinner in my apartment. It was all very correct."

The chansonnier tradition goes back to the medieval troubadours of the south of France. They are singers of stories, the words come first. It is a solo form. The backing bands are transient hired hands, way back. There is no equivalent, for ex-



"My fan base renews itself," says the French singer Julien Clerc.

ample, in Bruce Springsteen's pals, the faithful E Street Band.

Chansonniers sing on top of the beat with a fast, mechanical vibrato. The chanson is not funky and doesn't swing, though of course swing has more than one incarnation. They are

not bluesy (most of the songs are in major keys). Serge Gainsbourg was an exception. Gainsbourg and Clerc were "collaborators and buddies for awhile," Clerc says.

"He was a mixture of creator, poet, musician and we're-do-well."

He had the respect of intellectuals and at the same time a large popular audience. But the songs we wrote together do not have the best of his texts or the best of my music. When people who drink are with people who don't, there comes a time when there is nothing to say."

American musicians often ask Clerc about Gainsbourg. They are intrigued; there is nothing quite like him in America. Clerc toured with an American band for two years. They were marvelous musicians, but quite different from their French counterparts. Americans tend to be specialists. They zero in on one style — rock, blues, country, folk — and really nail it, often to the exclusion of others.

For his personal use, he prefers the French. The way Clerc sees it, he comes from an "unusual" collection of spaces, and French musicians are better able to fill them all. Being part of a minority culture, they learn wider vocabularies in order to survive in the international market. His influences include Gallic, Caribbean, Mediterranean (he calls it "tropicalism"). South American and classical music; in addition to what's on the airwaves everywhere.

Casting, however, is not a problem for the tour. There will be only three musicians on stage — two pianos (Clerc playing one of them) and an acoustic guitar. The trio has been touring since October and they know each other well.

"I like to play with a small formation," Clerc says. "It's more mobile. We can play smaller, more intimate venues. We reach a new audience. It costs less — less musicians, less material, less roadies, less showbiz weight. It's more relaxed, more emotional. It's a good way to greet America."



FESTIVE WELCOME — Children celebrated the arrival of spring by dancing through the streets of Bat Trang in Vietnam on Thursday.

PEOPLE

YOUNG people in the United States are buying less music, according to a new recording industry survey — and the Internet may be partly to blame. The music industry shipped \$13.7 billion worth of music to merchants in 1998, up from \$12.2 billion the year before. But people 15 to 29 — the bedrock of a youth-obsessed industry — bought a smaller share of the music, according to a profile of music consumers by the Recording Industry Association of America. The age group accounted for 39 percent of music purchases in 1998, down from 42 percent the year before. "In many ways, music is much more ubiquitous for young people," said Hilary Rosen, the association president. "You can get it on the radio, get it on MTV, get it on the Internet. There are many more choices out there to get music for free."

Johnny Carson, recovering from quadruple heart-bypass surgery, should be home in time for Easter. "He's in good condition. He's doing great," a spokesman for Saint John's Health Cen-

ter in Santa Monica, California, said Wednesday. "Hopefully, he will be going home by the end of the week." Doctors expect the 73-year-old Carson to make a full recovery. The former "Tonight Show" host underwent surgery to treat coronary artery disease March 19.

Residents of Claremont, California, about 30 miles (50 kilometers) east of

Los Angeles, have complained for years that the rapper Snoop Doggy Dog failed to control his stable of pit bulls and Rottweilers. Humane Society and Claremont police records include 44 allegations since 1994 of the dogs' fighting, barking all night and trapping neighbors in their homes. The Inland Valley Daily Bulletin reported Wednesday. The rapper, whose real name is Calvin Broadus, was never cited. Now, the

rapper has moved to an exclusive gated community some 20 miles away in Diamond Bar, where he has built a high-security compound for the canines.

Barbara Bush was "doing very well" after back surgery, said a spokeswoman for her son Governor George W. Bush of Texas. "Governor Bush talked to his mother earlier this evening and she is doing great," the spokeswoman said Wednesday. The governor said the former first lady had "some type of back surgery" at Houston's Methodist Hospital but did not elaborate.

Attorneys for Joe DiMaggio have asked for his will to be locked away, apparently to keep it out of the hands of collectors. The will was stored in the Broward County clerk's office near DiMaggio's home in Hollywood, Florida, where the baseball great died March 8 at 84. With his death, the value of DiMaggio collectibles has skyrocketed.

An Angry Rosa Parks Sues Rap Group

The Associated Press

DETROIT — The rap duo Outkast said it only wanted to pay homage to a great role model when it titled a song after the civil rights pioneer Rosa Parks.

Parks, however, was far from honored by the group's "vulgarity and profanity," said her attorney, Gregory Reed. She sued on Wednesday asking that her name be removed from all Outkast products. The lawsuit, which seeks \$25,000 in damages, claims the group used Parks' name without permission. "You have her name associated with lyrics that contain vulgarity and profanity that she does not appreciate," Reed said.

Members of the Atlanta-based Outkast said it was never their intention to defame Parks. They said they hoped to work the case out amicably.

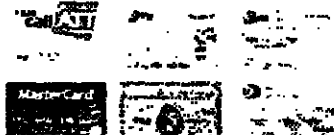
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